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1925 PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

BY

S. NICOL GALBRAITH, M.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office,
The Castle,
Tonbridge.

South-West Kent United Health Area.

INCLUDING

✓CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT,
✓MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT,
✓TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT,
✓TONBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT,
✓SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT,
✓TENTERDEN BOROUGH,

AND

✓TONBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT.


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SOUTH-WEST KENT JOINT HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1925.

HORACE HILLS (<i>Chairman</i>)	Tonbridge R. D.
WILLIAM PALMER	..	..	..	..	Tonbridge R. D.
W. LUMSDEN	..	..	..	..	Cranbrook R. D.
W. P. HENLEY	..	..	..	..	Cranbrook R. D.
J. E. CHAMPION	..	..	..	..	Maidstone R. D.
CANON LEIGH	..	..	..	..	Maidstone R. D.
ERNEST E. SELMES	..	..	..	..	Tenterden R. D.
H. G. THOMPSON	..	..	..	..	Southborough U. D.
MAJOR HERBERT NEVE	..	..	..	..	Tenterden Borough.
G. F. STACEY	..	..	..	..	Tonbridge U. D.
J. C. AUSTEN	..	..	..	..	Tonbridge U. D.

Clerk : H. W. PEACH, The Castle, Tonbridge.

CHAIRMEN OF DISTRICT COUNCILS, 1925.

HORACE HILLS	..	..	..	..	..	Tonbridge R. D.
W. LUMSDEN	..	..	..	..	..	Cranbrook R. D.
CANON LEIGH	..	..	..	..	..	Maidstone R. D.
ERNEST E. SELMES	..	..	..	..	..	Tenterden R. D.
A. W. NEWTON	..	..	..	..	..	Southborough U. D.
F. D. DRAPER (<i>Chairman, Public Health Committee</i>)	..	..	..	..	..	Southborough U. D.
ALDERMAN L. KENNARD DAVIS (<i>Mayor</i>)	..	..	..	..	..	Tenterden Borough.
FRANCIS I. DANN	Tonbridge U. D.
DR. WATTS (<i>Chairman, Public Health Committee</i>)	Tonbridge U. D.

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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,
THE CASTLE,
TONBRIDGE.
May 6th, 1926.

TO SOUTH-WEST KENT JOINT HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

I have the honour to submit to you herewith my third Annual Report on the Public Health of the seven constituent Districts of your Area during 1925. The contents and arrangement are those required by the Ministry of Health as set forth in Circular 648. The Report for 1925 is a Survey Report in which the M.O.H. has to deal comprehensively with—

- “(a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the public health ;
- “(b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of the area (*e.g.* housing, water supply, sewerage, scavenging or refuse disposal, food inspection or other services affecting the environment of the inhabitants ; and maternity and child welfare schemes, schemes for the treatment of tuberculosis and venereal diseases, provision of isolation hospitals, or other services directed to the prevention or cure of disease in individuals) ;
- “(c) Any further action of importance in the organisation or development of public health services contemplated by the Local Authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.”

The Circular also adds that : “ If a Medical Officer of Health for a Combined District makes a single Report upon the circumstances for all the Districts for which he acts, it is essential that he should (a) give separately for each District the statistics which he is required to furnish, and (b) include in the Report an index enabling references to the several Districts to be readily traced.”

It will be appreciated, therefore, that the work of an M.O.H. for a Combined Area is not light. To keep one set of statistics for one compact town or area is simple, but to keep the detailed records required for the seven Districts, with populations ranging from 3,000 to 18,000, is difficult. South-West Kent has a population of 80,000, more than double that, say, of Tunbridge Wells, which is 34,000.

Additional duties and responsibilities have been placed upon your M.O.H. and Inspectors during the year by the following new Orders :—

Public Health Act, 1925.

Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, in force from the 1st September 1925. This gives power to stop a supply of milk likely to cause tuberculosis.

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations. A complete census of all the cases in the Area had to be taken. No tuberculous person can now be employed in the dairy trade.

Rural District Councils (Slaughter-houses) Order, 1924.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. The M.O.H. inspected every slaughter-house and butcher's shop in South-West Kent and explained these Regulations.

Tuberculosis Order of 1925 (No. 2). Diseases of Animals.

Finally, the health of the Area in 1925 was good. There were no cases of smallpox, but scarlet fever has been prevalent. Epidemics of scarlet fever at Lamberhurst, and a serious one of diphtheria at Yalding, followed on hop-picking. The accommodation of hop-pickers and their thousands of visitors presents a perennial problem. Amongst those interested who made personal investigations at the farms were the Bishops of Rochester and Stepney ; Mr. Briant, M.P. for Lambeth ; Mrs. Wintringham, late M.P. for Louth ; and Ministry of Health officials.

Again my thanks are due to all concerned, Councillors, Officials, particularly my Inspectors, Medical Practitioners and Head Teachers, for their willing help and co-operation during 1925.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

S. NICOL GALBRAITH, M.O.H.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

South-West Kent Combined Sanitary District is the southern portion of the area known as West Kent, administered for 25 years by the late Dr. J. Scott Tew as Medical Officer of Health. It includes three urban and four rural districts. The main industry, therefore, is agriculture, particularly dairy farming, fruit growing and hop growing. The latter is the most important, and the hop fields with the white roundelled oast houses are a typical feature of the area. In Cranbrook, Maidstone and Tonbridge Rural Districts probably more hops are grown than in any other part of England. Tonbridge is the only town in the combined district, and is situated in the extreme west of the same. As the office of the M.O.H. is here, a great deal of travelling is involved in getting to the villages, for instance, Appledore in the Tenterden Rural District is 35 miles from Tonbridge. The chief industry of Tonbridge is printing and book-binding ; others include the manufacture of cricket balls, gramophone records, and the Brownlow (formerly Berkefield) filter. Tonbridge is an important railway junction midway between London and the coast ; this facilitates another growing industry, namely, the collection and distribution of a fresh milk supply to the metropolis and seaside resorts. The market, around which agricultural interests concentrate, is in a flourishing state. This however creates a problem—the congestion of the streets on market day. Many complaints have been made regarding the treatment of animals being driven through the town. Fortunately, through the public-spirited action of several ladies and gentlemen, a float is being provided for the transport of calves and pigs. The proposed widening of the Medway bridge and part of the street above it should help to improve matters.

The town is also an important educational centre, the Tonbridge School being of world-wide renown. An annual social feature is the Cricket Week, held in June, which is usually celebrated with picturesque pastoral plays held in the Castle grounds and regattas on the Medway. It has recently been proposed to apply for incorporation rights for Tonbridge. It is maintained that it should be a borough by historic claim alone. There can be little doubt that it was a borough in the forgotten and unrecorded past, this is supported by the fact that the names of the three surrounding villages—Hildenborough, Southborough, and Bidborough—each possess the affix of “borough.”

Southborough Urban District, situated between Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, is entirely residential ; its natural feature being the beautifully wooded common over 400 feet above sea level. It possesses a chalybeate spring. A great many of the villages in the Area are residential in character, amongst these might be mentioned Pembury, Hawkhurst, Staplehurst, and the Borough of Tenterden. The latter acquired its interesting and ancient rights as a borough from the Cinque ports. Cranbrook town has an excellent grammar school. It possesses several beautiful examples of domestic architecture of the Elizabethan and earlier periods.

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	171,679
Population (Census, 1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	79,617
„ (R.-G.'s estimated, 1925)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80,105
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,512
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,042
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	605,898
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,128

COMPARATIVE RATES FOR 1925.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality
ENGLAND AND WALES	18.3	12.2	75.0
105 county boroughs and great towns, in- cluding London	18.8	12.2	79.0
157 smaller towns (1921 adjusted popula- tions, 20,000-50,000)	18.3	11.2	74.0
LONDON	18.0	11.7	67.0
SOUTH-WEST KENT	16.2	12.7	49.2
Cranbrook Rural District	16.1	13.4	66.9
Maidstone Rural District	17.0	13.0	72.1
Tenterden Rural District	17.6	11.2	28.8
Tonbridge Rural District	16.5	12.1	63.3
Southborough Urban District	16.3	15.2	26.0
Tenterden Borough	14.5	16.0	21.7
Tonbridge Urban District	14.9	11.5	54.8

While the Death Rate for South-West Kent is a fraction, only 0.5, higher than that of England and Wales, the Infant Mortality Rate, a much more sensitive index of the sanitation of any given area, is 25.8 below the average.

TABLE SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death	Crabbrook R. D.	Maidstone R. D.	Tenterden R. D.	Tonbridge R. D.	Southboro' U. D.	Tenterden U. D.	Tonbridge U. D.	Total
Enteric fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping cough	—	5	—	2	—	—	—	7
Diphtheria	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Influenza	8	5	4	7	1	3	4	32
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	5
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	10	11	3	13	6	3	19	65
Other tuberculosis diseases	2	4	1	2	1	—	8	18
Cancer, malignant disease	26	28	8	23	16	4	23	128
Diabetes	1	1	—	1	—	—	3	6
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	10	6	4	16	7	5	13	61
Heart disease	31	36	9	49	16	7	33	181
Arterio-sclerosis	11	12	3	8	4	4	8	50
Bronchitis	5	18	5	9	11	5	9	62
Pneumonia (all forms)	15	10	2	11	4	6	6	54
Other respiratory diseases	4	8	1	3	2	—	2	20
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	—	—	1	2	—	—	6
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	4
Appendicitis and typhlitis	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	4
Cirrhosis of liver	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute and chronic nephritis	5	5	3	9	4	1	3	30
Puerperal sepsis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	9	9	1	7	2	—	5	33
Suicide	—	2	—	1	1	—	3	7
Other deaths from violence	5	8	4	5	4	3	3	32
Other defined diseases	24	48	17	43	25	10	36	203
Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	1	—	4	—	—	2	7
	174	223	66	220	107	51	183	1024

VISITS OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS TO SOUTH-WEST KENT DURING 1925.

19th May.—Dr. Lethem inspected hop-pickers' dwellings in Maidstone R. D. Drs. Lethem and Parsons attended the Committee at the N.F.U. Offices, Maidstone, dealing with the welfare of the hop-pickers.

31st August.—Drs. Lethem and Parsons conferred with the M.O.H. at the Castle, Tonbridge, regarding welfare of hop-pickers.

1st September.—Dr. Parsons inspected hoppers' dwellings in Tonbridge R. D. Dr. Lethem inspected hoppers' dwellings in Maidstone R. D.

2nd September.—Dr. Parsons inspected hoppers' dwellings in Cranbrook R. D.

3rd September.—Dr. Parsons inspected hoppers' dwellings in Tenterden R. D. and U. D.

21st September.—Dr. Mackenzie inspected Tonbridge Urban and Tonbridge Rural Isolation Hospitals.

22nd September.—Dr. Mackenzie inspected Southborough Isolation and Dislingbury Smallpox Hospitals.

23rd September.—Dr. Mackenzie inspected the Isolation Hospitals for Cranbrook and Maidstone Rural Districts.

15th October.—Dr. Glover inspected at Old Loose, Maidstone R. D., regarding complaints lodged by Col. Statham.

6th November.—Major Stewart held a Public Inquiry at Smallhythe Churchyard, Tenterden, regarding a complaint lodged by Dame Ellen Terry. (See page 57).

Dr. Mackenzie's inspections were made primarily in connection with the proposal to form a Joint Hospital Board for Tonbridge Rural, Tonbridge and Southborough Urban Districts. This is referred to in detail later.

PUBLICITY WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925 (SEC. 67).

(1) A lecture describing Public Health work in Tonbridge and District was given to the Women Citizens' Association. (See page 71).

(2) The Tonbridge and District Butchers' Association was addressed on the Meat Regulations. (See page 23).

(3) The Cranbrook District Butchers' Association was also addressed on the Meat Regulations.

(4) An address was given to the Tonbridge Dairymen's Association.

(5) A lecture on Child Welfare was given to the Tonbridge District Midwives' Association.

(6) The opening address of the Paddock Wood Child Welfare Centre was given.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authorities
or the County Council.

Tuberculosis.

In Cranbrook Rural District the Passmore Edwards Convalescent Home has been purchased by the County Council, and 26 beds are available there for the treatment of young adult men, women and children suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The National Sanatorium for the treatment of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis is situated in the Parish of Benenden, also in Cranbrook R. D.

Maternity Hospitals.

All Districts except Tonbridge Rural come under the County Scheme in which beds at Hospitals and Maternity Homes are available for difficult confinement cases, or cases in which the home conditions are unsuitable for confinement. Among other Hospitals, arrangements have now been entered into with the Tunbridge Wells General Hospital in this connection. A Maternity Home, supported mainly by voluntary subscriptions, was opened in Tunbridge Wells last year by Mrs. Neville Chamberlain, wife of the Minister of Health. Cases from a 15 mile radius can be sent to this home.

Fever Hospitals.

(1) CRANBROOK AND TENTERDEN JOINT HOSPITAL.—This is situated near the Union at Cranbrook and provides 12 beds. Another block is now being erected to give 12 more beds. A laundry and administrative block are also being built. An arrangement exists between the Joint Hospital Board and Tonbridge R. D. Council whereby cases can be sent to the latter Hospital at Capel, subject to accommodation being available. The Cranbrook Hospital was inspected by Dr. Mackenzie, of the Ministry of Health. He also examined the plans of the new blocks and expressed general approval of the same.

(2) MAIDSTONE R. D. ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—This excellent Hospital was built in 1913 on an ideal site near the village of Loose. It provides 16 beds in two blocks for the treatment of scarlet fever and diphtheria respectively. Enteric fever cases are admitted to the General Hospital, Maidstone. An agreement exists with Hollingbourne Rural Council to admit cases from that District. During the year 87 cases were treated, of these 48 were scarlet fever, 38 diphtheria, and 1 enteric fever.

(3) SOUTHBOROUGH U. D. ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—A separate Hospital is provided for the District, and provides 14 beds for the treatment, primary, of cases of scarlet fever; cases of diphtheria are admitted at the discretion of the M.O.H. During the year 15 cases were admitted—11 scarlet fever and 4 diphtheria.

(4) TONBRIDGE R. D. ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—This is situated at Capel, three miles from Tonbridge. It consists of three blocks for the treatment of scarlet fever, diphtheria and enteric fever respectively; 49 beds are in use. During the year 49 cases were treated as follows: 35 scarlet fever, 11 diphtheria, 1 enteric fever, and 2 encephalitis lethargica.

(5) TONBRIDGE U. D. ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—This is situated a mile from the town, and consists of a large block for scarlet fever cases and a smaller cubicle one for diphtheria or enteric fever cases; 47 beds are in use. During the year 51 cases were treated—46 scarlet fever, 4 diphtheria, and 1 enteric fever.

Proposed Joint Hospital.

The Southborough and the two Tonbridge Hospitals, which are within 6 miles of each other, were inspected and surveyed in detail by Dr. Mackenzie, of the Ministry of Health, in view of the proposed Joint Board. The facts of the case are briefly stated as follows:—

In 1924 it was proposed by Southborough U. D. Council to the Tonbridge Rural and Urban Councils to amalgamate for infectious diseases purposes and have one Hospital only for the three Districts. The M.O.H. was requested to prepare several reports on the subject. A resumé of these was given in the 1924 Health Report. It was shown that, from a medical point of view, one Isolation Hospital would adequately and more satisfactorily serve the requirements of the Districts than three separate institutions. All the 19 medical practitioners

in the Districts concerned were also agreed upon this. Financial statistics submitted by the three District clerks gave an estimated annual saving of £1,460 as the anticipated result of the amalgamation.

The councillors in conference, after careful deliberation, issued the following statement :—

“ We are of the opinion that three hospitals are unnecessary, and we make the following recommendations :

“ (1) That a Joint Hospital Board be constituted.

“ (2) That the three existing Hospital sites and buildings be taken over at their original capital cost.

“ (3) That the Tonbridge Urban Hospital be retained, and that the other Hospitals be disposed of.”

On these recommendations being referred to the separate Councils, that at Southborough decided to take a public referendum upon the subject. The result of this was as follows : For amalgamation, 867. Against amalgamation, 1,559. Uncollected, not voting, etc., 932. Total voting, 3,358.

Tonbridge Urban and Rural Councils decided, however, to proceed with the amalgamation as far as they were concerned. Tonbridge Rural Hospital at Capel was, therefore, offered for sale to the Kent County Council for the treatment of tuberculosis. This offer has not so far been accepted. In a letter dated 20th April, 1926, Dr. Greenwood, County M.O.H., states, “ that the County Council has all the accommodation for the treatment of advanced cases of tuberculosis which it requires at the present time.”

Smallpox Hospitals.

(1) Southborough, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Joint Hospital for smallpox is situated at Dislingbury, about a mile from Capel Hospital. It is kept open and in readiness, a caretaker and his wife being on the premises. It is under the supervision of the matron at Capel (Tonbridge Rural) Hospital. Cases of smallpox occurring in Southborough Urban, Tonbridge Urban and Rural Districts are admitted.

(2) Hollingbourne Hospital, situated in the Rural District of the same name, receives smallpox cases from Maidstone R. D., Cranbrook and Tenterden R. D.'s, and Tenterden U. D.

General Hospitals.

At Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone are General Hospitals which receive most of the serious accident and sickness cases from the Area. At the latter towns there are also Ophthalmic Hospitals.

Ambulance Service.

(a) FOR INFECTIOUS CASES.—Maidstone and Tonbridge Rural Councils each provide motor ambulances, which are stationed at the respective Isolation Hospitals.

Cranbrook and Tenterden Joint Hospital Board last year provided a motor ambulance, at a cost of about £250, for the Isolation Hospital. This is stationed at a garage in Cranbrook.

Southborough and Tonbridge Urban Hospitals have both got horse ambulances. These are kept at the respective Hospitals, and horses are hired as required.

(b) FOR NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES.—A British Red Cross ambulance is kept at the Fire Station, Tonbridge. Two hand ambulances are kept at the Fire Station, Southborough. The ambulances from Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone are available for the Rural Districts.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

These are provided and controlled by the County Council.

Treatment of Tuberculosis.

FOR TONBRIDGE URBAN, CRANBROOK AND TONBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICTS.

Dispensary : 53, Pembury Road, Tonbridge. (Dr. H. L. Grabham, Tuberculosis Officer.) Tel. 228 Tonbridge. Mondays, 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. Thursdays, 5.15 to 6 p.m.

FOR SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT AND PARTS OF TONBRIDGE R. D.

Dispensary : 34, Calverley Street, Tunbridge Wells. (Dr. H. L. Grabham, Tuberculosis Officer.) Mondays, 5 to 5.45 p.m. Thursdays, 1.30 to 3 p.m.

FOR MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.

Dispensary : 4, Station Road, Maidstone. (Dr. H. B. Gibbins, Tuberculosis Officer.) Tuesdays and Fridays, from 12.30 to 3 p.m.

FOR THE TENTERDEN DISTRICTS.

Dispensary : 1, Barrow Hill Place, Ashford. (Dr. R. H. A. Ritchie, Tuberculosis Officer.) Wednesdays, 10 to 12 noon.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases.

General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells. Men, Friday, 3 p.m. Women, Wednesday, 5 p.m.

A clinic is also held at Ashford and nine other towns in the County. Information respecting these may be obtained confidentially from the M.O.H. Treatment is free and secret, and any person may attend any of the clinics in Kent or elsewhere.

School Medical Inspection and Treatment.

Dr. S. T. Tucker, of 135, Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, is the School Medical Inspector for Tonbridge R. D., U. D., Maidstone R. D., Cranbrook R. D., and Southborough U. D.

Dr. F. Wolverson, of 8, Radnor Park Road, Folkestone, is the School Medical Inspector for Tenterden R. D. and Borough.

TONBRIDGE SCHOOL CLINIC, SUSSEX ROAD.

Eye Clinic, on Wednesdays (by appointment). Dr. J. W. Fox.

Dental Clinic, on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. Mr. F. J. Saunders.

General Clinic, on Saturdays, 9 to 11.30 a.m. Dr. S. T. Tucker.

SOUTHBOROUGH SCHOOL CLINIC, STAR ROOMS.

Dental Clinic only, on Saturdays, from 10 a.m. Mr. F. J. Saunders.

MAIDSTONE SCHOOL CLINIC, FAITH STREET.

Dental Clinic only, for children from surrounding Rural Districts, on Tuesdays, at 10 a.m. Mr. Cooper.

Eye Clinic is held at the Sessions House, Maidstone, when required. Dr. Fox.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.**Medical Officer of Health.**

S. Nicol Galbraith, M.B., D.P.H. (Camb.), Public Health Office, The Castle, Tonbridge (Tel. 242) ; and "Northwood," Yew Tree Road, Southborough (Tel. 104).

Health Inspectors.**CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.**

J. H. Bailey, "Penryn," Goddard Green, Cranbrook. (Tel. 42X1.)

MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT.

D. T. Sedgwick, Council Offices, King Street, Maidstone. (Tel. 40.)

TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

W. L. C. Turner, Town Hall, Tenterden. (Tel. 61.)

TONBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

Ernest Poole, "Curbloes," Pembury, Tunbridge Wells. (Tel. 72.)

SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT.

C. E. Maynard, M.C., Council Offices, Southborough. (Tel. 30.)

TENTERDEN BOROUGH.

G. L. Turner, Town Hall, Tenterden. (Tel. 61.)

TONBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT.

Mark Jenner, Public Health Office, The Castle, Tonbridge. (Tel. 242.)

Mr. Jenner holds the Meat Inspectors' Certificate.

The Inspectors for Southborough Urban District, and the Borough and Rural District of Tenterden, are also Surveyors for their respective Districts.

The clerk in the Public Health Office, Tonbridge, is Miss D. Singleton.

All the Sanitary Inspectors do their own clerical work, except those who are also Surveyors.

STAFFS OF ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

CRANBROOK AND TENTERDEN JOINT HOSPITAL, Cranbrook. (Tel. 42Y4 Cranbrook.)

Clinical M.O. : Dr. Shaw. (Tel. 43 Cranbrook.) Matron : Miss Burton.

MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT HOSPITAL, Loose. (Tel. 20 Hunton.)

Clinical M.O. : Dr. Falwasser. (Tel. 352 Maidstone.) Matron : Miss Gordon.

TONBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT HOSPITAL, Capel. (Tel. 17 Pembury.)

Clinical M.O. : Dr. J. Wyper. (Tel. 5 Pembury.) Matron : Mrs. Graham.

SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL, Vauxhall Lane. (Tel. 43 Southborough.)

Clinical M.O. : Dr. B. H. Pain. (Tel. 56 Southborough.) Matron : Mrs. Lawrence.

TONBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL, Vauxhall Lane. (Tel. 106 Tonbridge.)

Medical men attend own patients. Matron : Mrs. Shelton.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

In most parishes of the Rural Districts and in the Urban Districts there are Victoria Nurses stationed, who do general nursing. Twenty-two of these are also midwives. Their names and addresses, with other midwives, are given below. These nurses are employed by the various Local Nursing Associations, whilst all midwives are under the supervision of the County Council. The local nurses also undertake duties in connection with School Medical Inspection in their Districts. In Tonbridge Rural District they also do maternity and child welfare work.

There are seven County Council health nurses engaged in various parts of the Area in child welfare and tuberculosis work. Their names and addresses with their working Districts are given below.

County Health Nurses engaged in South-West Kent.

Name and Address of Nurse	Tuberculosis Nursing	Maternity and Child Welfare	School Nursing
Miss Workman, 53, Pembury Road, Tonbridge.	Tonbridge U. (south of river)	In area ...	In area.†
Miss Stanford, 14, Sussex Road, Tonbridge.	Southborough U. ; Tonbridge R. (parishes of Speldhurst, Ashurst, Bidborough, Tonbridge R.)	In area (except Tonbridge R.).	In area.†
Mrs. Hopwood, 153, Pembury Road, Tonbridge.	Tonbridge U. (north of river.) Tonbridge R (parishes of Hadlow, Brenchley, Hildenborough, Capel, Pembury and Lamberhurst).	In area (except Tonbridge R.).	In area †
Miss Blackmore, 3, Wellington Place, East Cross, Tenterden.	Tenterden U. ; Tenterden R. (except Appledore and Kenardington) ; Cranbrook R. (parishes of Sandhurst, Benenden and Frittenden).	In area ...	In area.†
Mrs. Saunders, Chidley Cross, East Peckham.	Cranbrook R. (parishes of Cranbrook, Hawkhurst and Goudhurst) ; Maidstone R. (Staplehurst and Marden) ; Tonbridge R. (parish of Horsmonden).	In area (except Ton. R.)	In area.†
Miss Nugent, Woodthorpe House, Greenstreet.	Maidstone R. (parishes of Boughton Monchelsea, Bearsted and Otham).	In area ...	In area.†
Miss Herd, Olive Villas, Loose	Maidstone R. (except Staplehurst, Marden, Bearsted, Otham and Boughton Monchelsea).	In area ...	In area.†
Miss Jervis, Hope-All-Saints, New Romney.	Tenterden R. (parishes of Appledore and Kenardington).	In area ...	In area.†

† School nursing work is delegated to local nurses in parts of the various areas.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MIDWIVES (INCLUDING DISTRICT NURSES) IN SOUTH-WEST KENT.

SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN.

- *Ballard, D. F., Neva Cottage, Pennington Road, Southborough.
- Cooper, E. E., 8, High Brooms Road, Southborough.
- *Morton, C., Neva Cottage, Pennington Road, Southborough.

TENTERDEN BOROUGH.

- *Clay, P. I., 3, Victoria Road, Tenterden.
- †Thomas, L. M., 1, Beacon Oak Road, Tenterden.
- *Nicholls, A., Chestnut Cottages, St. Michaels, Tenterden.

TONBRIDGE URBAN.

- Hobbs, E. G., 5, London Road, Tonbridge.
- Lampard, A. M., 44, Lionel Road, Tonbridge.
- Turpin, F., 20, Rose Street, Tonbridge.
- Waterman, A., 2, Waterloo Place, Tonbridge. (Bona fide.)

CRANBROOK RURAL.

- Mills, E. E. A., 37, High Street, Cranbrook.
- *Oxley, E., Arnwood, High Street, Cranbrook.

MAIDSTONE RURAL.

- Cronk, M. J., Kings Cottages, Nettlestead. (Bona fide.)
- *Doe, E. C., The Hospital, Marden.
- *Fisher, E. A., Church Cottage, Hill Top, Staplehurst.
- †Moon, A., The Bungalow, Pickering Street, Loose.
- *Newell, A. M., Boughton Monchelsea.
- Roberts, H. A., Jessamine Cottage, Benover, Yalding.
- *Stunt, R., c-o Mrs. Smith, Bearsted.
- *Webb, A. C., Keepers Cottage, Willington.
- †Willey, A., Forge House, East Farleigh.

TENTERDEN RURAL.

- Gill, E. M., Ferry Cottage, Stone. (Bona fide.)
- *Hollis, A. F., The Street, Wittersham.
- *Thomas, B. A. M., Hendon Place, 2, High View, Woodchurch.

TONBRIDGE RURAL.

- Bamblett, F., North View Cotts, Pembury.
- *Beak, A. M., Pine Cottage, Hildenborough.
- *Ellis, M. M., The Village, Brenchley.
- †Fahy, S., 8, Council Cottages, Court Lane, Hadlow.
- *George, K., Gun Cottage, Horsmonden.
- *Ince, J. L., Roseleigh, Penshurst Road, Speldhurst.
- *Miller, C., 3, Mons Cottages, The Downs, Lamberhurst.
- *Nash, M., Green End Cottages, Speldhurst Road, Langton Green.
- *Nash, R. E. G., 1, The Grove, Lower Green, Pembury.
- Porter, C., 5, Somerset Villas, Groombridge.
- *Perryman, E. M., Brenchley Road, Matfield.
- *Sims, H. C., Five Oak Green, Capel.
- *Unstead, L., 2, Readers Cottages, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood.

*Midwives employed by Nursing Associations.

†Midwives subsidised by the Kent County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—For a rural area it is very well supplied with water. There are three large companies—the Mid-Kent, the Cranbrook, and the Tonbridge Water Companies. Southborough is the only municipal supply. The three Urban Districts—Tonbridge, Southborough, and Tenterden—have every household supplied. Of the Rural Districts, the percentage of households supplied with company water is as follows: Tonbridge Rural District, 80 per cent.; Maidstone R. D., 70 per cent.; Cranbrook R. D., 58 per cent.; Tenterden R. D., 35 per cent.

Rivers and Streams.—The only river flowing through the Area is the Medway, with its tributary streams. Many of these, such as the Teise and the Beult, are polluted by sewage from several villages. Nevertheless, these villages are in a much better position, from a health point of view, than those whose only outlet for sewage are the ditches or ponds dug around them. Such a village is Staplehurst, in Maidstone R. D. The Council prepared a comprehensive sewage scheme, but this was turned down by the Ministry of Health; a modified and less costly scheme is under consideration. No known pollution reaches the Medway as it passes through Tonbridge.

Drainage and Sewage.—The three Urban Districts are efficiently drained, practically every house has water sanitation—a most important factor in the protection of the public health. Each of the towns also have installed septic tanks and filter beds for sewage purification. With regard to the four Rural Districts, naturally drainage and sewerage is less advanced. The respective Districts have the following number of villages with sewage purification plants: Tonbridge R. D., 5; Cranbrook R. D., 4; Maidstone R. D., 3; Tenterden R. D., 2. Tonbridge R. D. has two Dennis motor tank cesspool emptiers, and Maidstone R. D. has one.

Scavenging.—The three Urban Districts are scavenged, but the refuse is disposed of by dumping. The provision of refuse destructors is discussed in two special reports to Tonbridge and Southborough District Councils respectively.

Tonbridge R. D. scavenges no less than seven villages; Cranbrook R. D. one village, and Maidstone R. D. none at all. The problem of refuse disposal is marked in most of the other villages. A surprising number of the older cottages have no garden, and, though the inhabitants seem willing to move the refuse, few owners are willing to have a dump on their land. Consequently otherwise beautiful rustic lanes and streams are rendered most unsightly by the indiscriminate deposition of old tins and other refuse. A little concerted public-spirited interest on the part of the villagers themselves would do much to remedy this.

Schools and School Closure.—Each school where there has been an outbreak of notifiable infectious disease has been visited by the M.O.H. In several instances improved sanitation has been installed. Though most of the village schools are old buildings they are substantial. Most of the existing buildings—as all property, new and old, does—require constant care with regard to thorough cleansing, minor repairs and decoration. Such details as providing soap and clean towels add much to the comfort and self-respect of the scholars. I have made it my practice as M.O.H., when a case of infectious disease occurs in a school, to examine all the contacts. A total of 1,860 scarlet fever and diphtheria contacts have thus been dealt with. Scarlet fever has been particularly prevalent during the year, but no doubt these measures prevented the outbreaks developing into epidemics and obviated the necessity for school

closure. The only schools closed at the request of the managers were Langton, for four days, because of influenza, and Marden, because of measles, for 14 days.

It is anticipated that under the new regulations of the Board of Education school closure will very seldom be required on account of outbreaks of infectious disease, especially of a minor nature. When the attendance falls below 60 per cent., the Board accepts a certificate from the Medical Officer, so that the weeks of low attendance will not be reckoned in calculating for grant purposes. On the recommendation of the County M.O.H., special forms in connection with cases of infectious disease are now in use throughout the Area. By these the parent and teacher will be informed of the exact dates when contacts and patients amongst the children can return to school. It is hoped thus to lessen the spread of infection.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS.

HOP-PICKING SEASON, 1925.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

The Bishop of Stepney recently gave a glowing eulogy of hop-picking. There is no question that it provides a profitable opportunity which would not otherwise be available for thousands of poor town and slum dwellers to obtain a bracing change to the country. It is not a holiday, because hop-picking is back-aching work, but the work in the open air does most of the pickers a great deal of good. The yearly migration of these thousands of people presents problems of transport and sanitation. The Southern Railway, with the growers, have effected marked improvements in the former. The method adopted, which seems to have worked without a hitch, enabled each grower's pickers to arrive at the same time in daylight. It would be a great advance next year if the Southern Railway would arrange for motor transport of the pickers from the Kent stations to the farms. At present the weary trudge of the pickers to and from the farms reminds one of the treks of war refugees in a foreign land. Road transport all the way is yearly increasing, there have however been some accidents, some of the motors turned out for the purpose not being "roadworthy."

A perennial topic of discussion, almost dispute in some quarters, is the general character of the hopper. Twelve years ago, when I was Assistant Medical Officer in the Metropolitan Borough of Lambeth, I saw a good deal of the "foreign" hopper in his home, and I would call him a respectable citizen. In 1913 Dr. R. Farrar, in a report to the Local Government Board, wrote of the hopper as follows:—

" ' Foreign ' pickers are, speaking generally, an orderly, self-respecting, and respectable class of people, coming from decent houses. Their social status is not to be inferred from their raiment, as, for the sake of economy, they take their oldest clothes down to the hop-picking, and though they will often tolerate much discomfort rather than forgo their annual outing to the country, they are acutely conscious of this discomfort and sensitive on the score of decency and reasonable privacy in their surroundings.

" There is now comparatively little drunkenness among the pickers, and the marked improvement in this respect is largely due to the influence of missions."

Impartial authorities have commented on the improvement in the character of the hopper. Credit must be given to the Ministry of Health for its Child Welfare, School Medical Inspection, and other Public Health work in London, which is helping to make the dirty and verminous hopper a thing of the past.

Infectious Disease.

The prevalence of infectious disease has been much less than last year, owing to better weather, to the untiring work of the staffs of the medical dispensaries, and, no doubt, to improved conditions—for instance, the provision of ventilation in the huts. Only 14 cases were notified, as follows: from Maidstone Rural District—diphtheria, 7, one died; scarlet fever, 1; and pneumonia, 1. From Tonbridge Rural District—diphtheria, 1; scarlet fever, 2; enteric fever, 1; and pneumonia, 1.

In connection with the diphtheria cases, a total of 92 swabs were taken of hop-picker contacts; of this number 36 were taken by the M.O.H. on the farms. As an additional precaution with each case, the M.O.H. of the Metropolitan Borough from which the picker comes is notified. There is no doubt, as the growers often assert, that the pickers bring the infection with them, but insanitary dwellings so lower their health that the infection develops into disease. I have remarked that cases are reported mostly toward the end of the picking, when in the dirty camps the accumulations of filth and rubbish begin to cause trouble.

It will be noted there was only one case of water-borne disease: typhoid or enteric fever. From almost time beyond record, no doubt since the great cholera epidemics in 1856, the two District Councils have, at a cost of about £20 per annum each, provided free for the use of the pickers an excellent medicine for the treatment of diarrhoea. The Ministry of Health has advised the Councils that this be discontinued, as with the improved sanitary conditions and the provision of medical huts in each village the need for this diarrhoea mixture has largely disappeared. An important need on the farms is the reservation of a hut, detached 50 feet from the other dwellings, for the temporary isolation of cases of infectious disease. I am satisfied that with most growers attention only requires to be drawn to this need to have it met.

Non-Infectious Disease.

The British Red Cross Society has provided fully equipped Dispensaries this year at Capel, East Farleigh and Yalding. The Hop-pickers' Medical Missions have excellent Dispensaries in almost all the villages. At Five Oak Green, Horsmonden and Marden are small Hospitals, or what one might call Casualty Clearing Stations, for the temporary treatment of serious cases before sending them by ambulance to the General Hospitals at Maidstone, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. This year 41 cases were admitted to the General Hospitals.

Investigation amongst the Hopper Dispensaries scattered throughout South-West Kent reveals the fact that there was as much illness as last year of a non-infectious nature. That it was less severe is shown by the fact that there were 9 deaths, as compared with 22 in 1924. Unfortunately, of the 9 fatal cases, 5 were infants. A total of 7,154 patients, these making 14,324 attendances to the 22 Dispensaries, reveals an amount of invalidity amongst the pickers which should be inquired into. It points to the need for greater improvements in the dwellings provided for the accommodation of the pickers. The nurses are no "Sarah Gamps," but trained professional women, many with war experience, who know their work well. It is felt that their efforts have prevented outbreaks of epidemic disease. A prevalence of sore throats and impetigo has been reported from some farms. Their self-denying work is appreciated by everyone concerned, and especially the hoppers. What has been said of nurses in general applies fully to the hoppers' nurse in particular. "If gratitude were the coinage of the realm as it is of hearts, our nurses would be the richest among us." The amount of gratuitous work done also by the medical practitioners in hop-picking districts is not fully recognised. For

years Dr. Simpson has attended the Dispensary at Horsmonden, and Dr. Sealy that at Five Oak Green. Dr. Ebdon again officiated at Marden.

A total number of 237 cases of "hoppers' rash," and 187 cases of "hoppers' eye," were reported. As stated last year, the general opinion is that the growers should make provision for the treatment of such cases of occupational diseases; this could readily be done by subscribing liberally to the Dispensaries. The licenced trade, of which hop-growing is an important branch, is well recognised for its generosity to the voluntary Hospitals. As far as can be ascertained, the following are the numbers of new cases treated at the various medical centres. They represent a creditable amount of voluntary work on the part of all concerned. Marden (5 dispensaries), 2,130 new cases; Goudhurst (5 dispensaries), 1,443; Five Oak Green (4 dispensaries), 896; Horsmonden, 670; Paddock Wood (3 dispensaries), 395; Staplehurst, 142; Capel, 502; East Farleigh, 509; Yalding, 467. The attendances in each case were about twice the number of new cases.

Hop-Pickers' Dwellings.

The byelaws for the decent lodging of hop and fruit pickers deliberately use the word "dwellings." Evidently at the time of their adoption, 50 years ago, the idea of dwelling was carried out in the solid brick structures which are still the best accommodation for the pickers. Since then an impression seems to have grown that anything is good enough for the hoppers, and ramshackle shanties of every conceivable size and structure have been erected throughout the countryside. It is argued that the growers cannot be expected to provide permanent dwellings for use only in one month in the year; the same argument should apply to the great capital outlay in wiring, cultivation and washing of the hop-plants. Unpicked hops represent no profit, and it must be realised that hop-growing and hop-picking (which involves the welfare and care of the picker) are one and the same business. One is more than ever amazed at the variety of materials of which hoppers' dwellings are constructed. Last year we found some made of old boxes; this year we saw some straw ones which, if in Central Africa, would make excellent Kaffirs' kraals, but they do not suit our climate. No straw dwellings will be allowed in future; that the danger from fire is serious is shown by the fact that this year 40 huts, some of corrugated iron, were burned down. Most new huts now being built are of this material, but some growers are also beginning to make use of concrete for the walls as well as floors. In collaboration with Colonel Harris, Surveyor to Tonbridge Rural District, standard plans of huts, cookhouses, etc., are being prepared. Copies will be available for growers in due course. It is hoped that these will be helpful in avoiding costly mistakes in structure.

In Maidstone Rural District there are 152 encampments of 5,418 huts; 220 of these were newly constructed this year. For these 404 cookhouses and 458 privies are provided. Eighty tents and 58 gipsy vans were occupied. An improved water supply is required on 18 farms. In Tonbridge Rural District there are 106 farms with a total of 3,609 huts, of these 180 were newly built this year. Seven farms have had an improved water supply laid on. Forty-five extra cookhouses and 56 extra latrines were provided. Over 300 of the huts had increased light and ventilation provided. Many huts have been floored with wooden boards, chalk or concrete, and to some concrete or clinker paths have been laid.

In consultation with many of the growers it is found that suggestions are well received. For instance, the provision of coppers for boiling water, from the M.O.H.'s point of view, prevented burns and scalds, from the grower's standpoint saved fuel and lessened fire risks. Again, the use of empty powder



Hut No. 25. Occupiers 17. Size of Hut, 9' \times 10'. Earth Floor 1' below ground level.
Flat Roof 6' only from Floor to Roof.

This hut is No. 2 referred to in the accompanying report and is also one of the cases where successful proceedings were taken on account of overcrowding and unsatisfactory accommodation.

spray bins or barrels as rubbish bins along the lines, while preventing unhealthy accumulations of rubbish, saves labour in collecting the same. All rubbish must be burned. The comfort of a fixed wooden bedstead in the huts is appreciated by the pickers, lessens the bulk of luggage the railway company has to deal with, and saves the grower the yearly labour of providing faggots for bedding. All bedding straw used by pickers must be burned after their departure; the reprehensible practice of a few growers of using this for packing or storing apples must cease.

Several cases of overcrowding were reported, as it happens, on farms belonging to the same firm. The cases were: (1) Hut measuring 12 feet by 10 feet, with no partition, had 4 families totalling 19 individuals. (2) Hut 10 feet by 9 feet, floor of earth about 1 foot under ground level and often flooded out, had 4 families totalling 17 individuals. (3) Hut 10 feet by 9 feet had 3 families totalling 15 individuals. With my Inspectors I visited these huts after 9 p.m. The crowded unhealthy conditions could not be described with words in the English dictionary. The Maidstone Rural Council, without hesitation and unanimously, decided to prosecute the firm concerned.

Maidstone Council also appointed an additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Brook, for hopper work during the months of March, August and September. Tonbridge Rural District Council decided not to appoint an additional Inspector this season. The permanent Inspectors, Mr. Sedgwick for Maidstone, and Mr. Poole for Tonbridge Rural Districts have done excellent work, sometimes against opposition. For the first time they have both this year provided themselves with motor cars, which greatly facilitates their work. All the farms have been visited, and many improvements carried out, especially as regards the ventilation of huts. In my opinion, it is necessary to have additional temporary Inspectors for each District every season. During hopping I consider it essential that each farm be inspected at least weekly, and the food sold to the pickers more closely supervised. Complaint has been made this year, for instance, of bread being sold in a partially baked condition.

The Ministry of Health is taking an active interest in the question. On September 1st Drs. Lethem and Parsons, Medical Officers from the Ministry of Health, met the M.O.H. at the Castle, Tonbridge, and conferred regarding the accommodation provided for hop-pickers. They spent 12 days in the various Districts investigating conditions in detail. Dr. Lethem, who inspected Maidstone and neighbouring Districts, reported two growers—one who refuses to provide ventilation in the huts, the other who refuses to provide sanitary accommodation. Dr. Parsons, who inspected Tonbridge, Cranbrook and Tenterden Districts, emphasised the necessity for more attention being paid to the scavenging and general cleanliness of the dwellings. While it was noted that many growers have carried out improvements, it was felt to be only fair to them that the few defaulters should be brought up to the general standard.

27th October, 1925.

The two cases of overcrowding mentioned above were at Frith Hall Farm, East Farleigh, owned by Messrs. A. & W. Kennard. At the Sessions House, Maidstone, on the 8th February, 1926, the grower was fined a total of £17 10s., being 25s. on each summons. The Bench considered that the 14 breaches of the "Byelaws for securing decent Accommodation of Persons engaged in Hop-Picking" had been proved. Costs, which amounted to £60, were not allowed to the Council.

HOUSING.

The following table shows the number of houses built by the respective Councils of the Area :—

	Cranbrook Rural	Maidstone Rural	Tenterden Rural	Tonbridge Rural	Southboro' Urban	Tenterden Borough	Tonbridge Urban
Total houses built by Council	32	29	76	212	Nil.	24	206
Total houses built by Council in 1925 ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	11	Nil.	Nil.	42
Total Council houses on hand or sanctioned ..	Nil.	14	Nil.	54	Nil.	24	86
Grand totals ..	32	43	76	277	Nil.	48	334

Eight hundred and ten Council houses have, therefore, been built or sanctioned in South-West Kent. The detailed statistics as required by Ministry of Health Circular No. 648 are given for each District separately. There is still a large demand for houses, in Tonbridge Urban District, for instance, 212 names are still on the waiting list. Overcrowding does not seem so prevalent ; 14 cases have been found by the Inspectors. The Districts are : Maidstone R., with 7 houses ; Tonbridge U., 7 ; and Southborough U., 5. At Marden I found one house with 4 adults and 7 children sleeping in one bedroom. It has been noted that where cases of infectious disease occur there is frequently overcrowding. It is better, therefore, to build houses rather than provide hospital treatment.

There is a good deal of unfit property, particularly cottages, in the rural districts. I hesitate in most cases, however, to advise closing and demolition to further aggravate the housing problem. In one district, for instance, a large family ejected three years ago on a closing order has since been living in much worse conditions in a hopper hut.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—There are 362 cowsheds in the Area, 183 of which are in the Tonbridge Rural District. The number is increasing, and improvements are being carried out in many of the existing ones. Several complaints have been received regarding the cleanliness of the milk, and there is great need for improvement in this respect. One difficulty is the proper disposal of manure ; in most cowsheds I have seen it is lazily thrown out of a window and piled up in the yard—through this the cows walk, knee deep. To produce milk worthy of the name is impossible under such conditions. Manure should be wheeled 50 feet away from the buildings and deposited in a properly constructed pit. Farmers spend hundreds of pounds upon patent artificial manures instead of making the best use of natural manure which they can get for nothing.

Under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, headway is very gradually being made in weeding out tuberculous animals from the milking herds.



The business before its reconstruction.



An excellent example of hygienic reconstruction. The windows can be raised. The walls of the shop are tiled to the ceiling. The flooring is of a composite material, everything in the shop is impervious and easily washed. Two refrigerators have also been fitted in the premises.

The production of clean milk is not a matter of palatial cowsheds but chiefly one of education of the dairy farmer, retailer, and also the consumer. In this connection the joint work of the Kent Education Committee and the Kent Milk Recording Society should be mentioned. For the Third Clean Milk Competition 45 Kent dairy farmers competed. The successful competitors from South-West Kent included Mr. H. Harvey, Goudhurst; Commander Bromley, Groombridge; Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Borton, Yalding; Miss O. Japp, Lamberhurst; and Mr. T. E. Jarvis, Speldhurst.

Meat Supply.—There are 48 slaughter-houses in the Area. I have visited every one of these with the Inspectors for the respective Districts. Many improvements recommended have been carried out. One slaughter-house at Lamberhurst, in Tonbridge R. D., was condemned and a new one built to replace it. In the same District an old factory is being converted into a slaughter-house by a Tunbridge Wells butcher. All the butchers' shops in the Area have also been visited by the M.O.H. and Inspectors, and the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, explained. Two meetings were addressed by the M.O.H. at the request of the butchers, one at Tonbridge and the other at Cranbrook. The Regulations and the questions of a public abattoir and humane killing were discussed. In spite of the fact that some authorities have stated that it was not necessary to have glass windows to keep meat clean, many butchers have provided fixed or movable glass windows to their shop fronts. It is found that the improved appearance increases sales. The accompanying illustrations show the excellent improvement carried out in the premises of Messrs. Burfield Bros., of Goudhurst. I am indebted to the firm who carried out the work, Messrs. F. Sage & Co., 58, Gray's Inn Road, W.C. 1, for the loan of the photograph blocks.

Condemned Meat.—The amount of meat condemned in the various Districts was as follows: Cranbrook R. D., 96 lbs.; Maidstone R. D., nil; Tonbridge R. D., beef, 1 ton 12 cwts., mutton, 200 lbs., pork, 320 lbs.; Tenterden R. D., nil; Southborough U. D., 1,580 lbs.; Tenterden Borough, 1 carcase; and Tonbridge U. D., 1 ton 3 qr. 5 lbs.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Disease.	Cranbrook R. D.	Maidstone R. D.	Tenterden R. D.	Tonbridge R. D.	Southboro' U. D.	Tenterden U. D.	Tonbridge U. D.	Total
Scarlet fever	5	31	5	36	12	6	46	141
Diphtheria	3	21	—	11	4	—	4	43
Enteric fever	1	4	2	2	—	1	1	11
Erysipelas	—	2	1	6	—	1	9	19
Pneumonia	—	11	—	13	—	2	5	31
Puerperal fever	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	3
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Encephalitis lethargica ..	1	—	—	5	—	—	2	8
Malaria	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
	10	70	10	77	17	10	67	261

During the year the Medical Officer of Health held 35 consultations with medical practitioners regarding cases of infectious diseases occurring in the Area.

Smallpox.—No cases occurred. Eight contacts, chiefly from abroad, were kept under observation for the required periods of quarantine. In all cases of chickenpox reported from the schools the parents have been written to and vaccination recommended.

Scarlet Fever.—This has been prevalent throughout the Area. Tonbridge town had 46 cases, whilst the villages most affected were Marden and Lamberhurst, with 12 and 11 cases respectively. The school and home contacts were examined by the M.O.H. In this way a total of 1,644 contacts were dealt with, of these 16 were excluded from school and referred to their own doctor. Seven children found at school to be in the peeling stage of the disease were sent to hospital.

Diphtheria.—Maidstone Rural District was most affected, 8 of the cases occurring in Yalding just after hop-picking; 216 contacts were swabbed and 11 carriers found.

In previous years it had been found that a number of negative cases of diphtheria were sent into the five Hospitals in the Area. The doctors were, therefore, written and requested, with routine cases, to take a swab first, give anti-toxin, isolate the patient, and await the result of the swab. This procedure has been successfully carried out with benefit to all concerned. Hitherto the sending in of a negative case frequently had meant the engaging of a special nurse, especially in the smaller Hospitals.

Enteric Fever.—The cases were scattered all over the Area, and were not severe, only one proving fatal. This patient, from Linton, died in West Kent Hospital, Maidstone. Four of the cases apparently received the infection outside the Area.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—Of the 8 cases notified 5 proved fatal. There was no relationship between the cases. This disease is apparently being looked upon as less of an infectious nature, as cases are now frequently treated in General Hospitals. In my 1924 Report I expressed the opinion that, like beri-beri, it may be a vitamin deficiency disease due to wrong diet. This theory was supported by the histories of some of the cases—for instance, one patient, aged 60 years, had been in the habit of taking nothing but water and white bread for supper.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Circular 549, issued by the Ministry of Health under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, imposes new duties on the M.O.H. To bring the Register of Notifications for each District up to date the Tuberculosis Officers, Drs. Grabham and Gibbins, were conferred with several times. As far as could be ascertained all the following cases were removed from the Registers: (1) persons who had died; (2) patients who had ceased permanently to reside within the District; (3) patients who were cured of the disease. It is required also "that in the Areas of Administrative Counties the District Medical Officers of Health should furnish quarterly to the County Medical Officer of Health the particulars as to numbers of cases in their Registers." This has been, and is, carried out regularly for the seven Districts. The following table gives the statistics regarding cases in South-West Kent. It will be noted that a total of 123 cases were notified and that 83 died. Fourteen of the latter had not been notified; the attention of the doctors concerned was drawn to the omission

in each case. Invariably the medical practitioner had been under the impression that the case had been previously notified.

District		New Cases				Deaths				Deaths not notified	
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary Non-Pulmonary	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Cranbrook R. D.	..	9	8	1	1	4	6	1	1	2	1
Maidstone R. D.	..	10	16	2	2	4	7	2	2	2	—
Tenterden R. D.	..	3	6	—	3	1	2	—	1	1	—
Tonbridge R. D.	..	11	6	4	4	3	10	1	1	1	1
Southborough U. D.	..	6	2	—	2	4	2	—	1	1	1
Tenterden Borough	..	1	—	2	—	1	1	1	—	1	—
Tonbridge U. D.	..	7	9	5	3	13	7	1	6	2	1
		47	47	14	15	30	35	6	12	10	4
		94		29		65		18		14	

COUNTY LABORATORY.

Excellent facilities are provided for the examination of bacteriological specimens sent from South-West Kent to the County Laboratory, Maidstone. Particulars for each District are as follows :—

District	Total sent	Diph.	Positive	Phthisis	Positive	Ent. F.	Positive
Cranbrook R. D. ..	67	27	7	39	10	1	—
Maidstone R. D. ..	513	445	73	54	7	14	3
Tenterden R. D. ..	18	2	—	16	3	—	—
Tonbridge R. D. ..	187	140	29	39	3	8	3
Southborough U. D. ..	82	64	10	17	5	1	—
Tenterden Borough ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Tonbridge U. D. ..	82	47	2	27	8	8	1
	951	727	121	192	36	32	7

Cranbrook Rural District.

1925 Health Report.

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41,315
Population (Census 1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,909
„ (Estimated 1925)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,940
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,094
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,119
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£88,321
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£310
Amount of Poor Law relief	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£10,190

THE EXTENT TO WHICH HOSPITAL AND OTHER FORMS OF GRATUITOUS MEDICAL RELIEF ARE UTILISED.—Isolation Hospitals have been used gratuitously by 17 persons during the past year, and occasional use has been made of the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, and the West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.

			Total	M.	F.	
Births.	Legitimate	..	194	108	86	
„	Illegitimate	..	15	10	5	
			209	118	91	Birth rate (R.G.) 16.15
Deaths	..	..	174	81	93	Death rate (R.G.) 13.4
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—						
	From sepsis	..	..	..	..	Nil.
	„ other causes	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—						
	Legitimate, 57.4 ; Illegitimate, 9.5	..	..	..	..	Total 66.9
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
„ „ diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	1

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Acts Adopted.

So much of Part 3 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, as is applicable to Rural Authorities.

Sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 49, comprised in Part 3 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (came into operation 21st December, 1914).

Section 25 of the Public Health Act, 1875 (came into operation 11th January, 1915).

Section 67 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (came into operation 26th August, 1915).

Orders.

The Cranbrook and Tenterden Joint Hospital Order, 1921.

Bye-laws.

Bye-laws—Hop-pickers' Accomodation (17th November, 1875).

Bye-laws—Slaughter-houses under Slaughter-houses Order, 1924 (26th June, 1925).

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885. Adopted 13th February, and came into force 1st April, 1907.

Bye-laws with respect to New Buildings. Adopted 14th December, 1910, and allowed by the Local Government Board on 31st January, 1911.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.**Water.**

Cranbrook Rural District is supplied by two water companies.

(1) CRANBROOK WATER COMPANY.—The works of this company are in the parish of Goudhurst. The supply is ample and constant, and is obtained by pumping from a deep well. There are practically no possibilities of contamination. An analysis, dated 26th February, 1925, showed "this water was of excellent organic quality." The raw water contains some iron, but this is removed by filtration under compressed air in two "Candy" filters. Analyses of two samples taken on the 12th March, 1926, showed that the water contained :—

Before filtration	1.24 parts iron (Fe) per 100,000
After filtration	0.12 ,, ,, ,,

The Company supplies 1,745 dwelling-houses, and also 71 standpipes to houses and 35 to hop-pickers' dwellings.

(2) MID KENT WATER COMPANY.—This company supplies 59 dwelling-houses. Details of the supply are given in the report for Maidstone District.

The total houses supplied, therefore, is 1,804. As the number of inhabited houses (1921 Census) is 3,094, this shows that 58 per cent. of the houses are connected to a company water supply.

Rivers and Streams.

The sewage from the town of Cranbrook is discharged into the River Crane; plans have been prepared for dealing with the sewage on modern methods by Messrs. Alford and Chatterton, Engineers, Victoria Street, Westminster.

Drainage, Sewerage, and Scavenging.

There are seven outfall works in the District and, with the exception of one, are all provided with automatic sewage distributors, and the effluents produced are all satisfactory.

The villages of Hawkhurst, Goudhurst and Willesley are sewered with a termination at outfall works. The villages of Benenden and Frittenden are sewered; these sewers flow into ditches. Sandhurst is partly sewered with a termination at outfall works.

House refuse is removed in the town of Cranbrook, and the cesspools in Cranbrook and the village of Sandhurst are emptied by means of a properly equipped cesspool apparatus.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1925.

Inspections. —Total number of inspections made during the year	1,159
Nuisances. —Total number discovered and dealt with	50
Number of inspections	76
Complaints. —Total number received	10
Number of inspections	12
Total number of visits made to outfall works	86
Closet Accommodation. —The approximate number of each type of closet in the district is as follows :—	
Water closets	1,150
Earth closets	1,000
Privies	200
Conversions are carried out as occasion requires.	
Number of privies converted into earth closets	6
Number of earth closets converted into water closets	2

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

INSPECTION.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	48
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	46
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	46

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ..	30
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.**A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil.

B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 14 AND 15 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925	Nil.
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PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet fever	5	4	—
Diphtheria	3	3	1
Enteric fever (including paratyphoid) ..	1	1	—
Puerperal fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	1	—	—
Total	10	8	1

Scarlet Fever.—Five cases were notified during the year from Goudhurst, four being removed to the Isolation Hospital at Cranbrook. They occurred at the following age periods :—

5—10

10—15

= 5

4

1

In connection with these cases 101 school contacts were examined by the M.O.H. Four of these were excluded, two actually being in the “ peeling ” stage of the disease. These measures no doubt prevented an epidemic developing.

Diphtheria.—Three cases of diphtheria were notified, with one death ; this occurred of a patient who had come from London on holiday, and who had apparently developed the disease on the journey. All the cases were admitted to Hospital and were from Goudhurst. They occurred between the age periods 5 to 15 years. The home contacts were swabbed by the M.O.H., all proving negative.

Enteric Fever.—One case occurred at Frittenden and was removed to the Isolation Hospital. The infection was attributable to an unfit village water supply from a well. Company water is now laid into the village.

A case of encephalitis lethargica of a female, aged 41 years, occurred at Hawkhurst. She was treated at home. The disease had developed in London where she worked.

Tuberculosis.—A total of 19 new cases were notified ; 12 deaths were registered.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
20	1	1	1	—	2	—	—	—
25	7	3	—	—	2	1	—	—
35	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
45	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals ..	9	8	1	1	4	6	1	1
	17		2		10		2	

Maidstone Rural District.

1925 Health Report.

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33,129
Population (Census 1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16,986
„ (Estimated 1925)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,080
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,949
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,066
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£119,654
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£370
Amount of Poor Law relief (out relief only)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,300

THE EXTENT TO WHICH HOSPITAL AND OTHER FORMS OF GRATUITOUS MEDICAL RELIEF ARE UTILISED.—Operation cases are generally sent into the town of Maidstone to the General Hospital. There is an Infectious Diseases Hospital with 16 beds. The Guardians have also an excellent Infirmary situated in the Rural District.

			Total	M.	F.		
Births.	Legitimate	..	..	280	131	149	
„	Illegitimate	..	..	11	5	6	
				—	—	—	
				291	136	155	Birth rate (R.G.) 17.0
				—	—	—	
Deaths	..	..	..	223	123	100	Death rate (R.G.) 13.0
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—							
	From sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
	„ other causes	..	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—							
	Legitimate, 68.7 ; Illegitimate, 3.4	..	..	..	..	Total	72.1
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
„ „ diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Bye-laws.

(1) For securing the decent lodging and accommodation of persons engaged in hop-picking, or in the picking of fruit and vegetables.

(2) For the licensing, etc., of slaughter-houses, and for preventing cruelty, removing filth and provision of sufficient water therein, etc.

(3) For promoting cleanliness in tents, vans, etc., and for preventing spread of infectious diseases therein, etc.

(4) For prescribing lighting, cleansing and drainage of cowsheds and dairies.

(5) For securing the proper erection of new buildings, the sufficiency of space, drainage, cesspools, etc., for purposes of health.

Order.

Order, dated 17th February, 1921, declaring sections 25, 30 and 33, sections 34 to 38, 43 to 46, 48 to 50, and section 67 of Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, to be in force.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

All the parishes are supplied with water from the Mid Kent and the Maidstone Water Companies. Outlying parts of several villages to which the mains do not extend require a supply. They are Boughton Bottom, Hornslodge, Yalding, Hunton Hill Top and the Plain, and Staplehurst.

MID KENT WATER COMPANY.—The company has an ample and constant supply of water, and an additional pumping station is in course of construction at Trosley to provide for future requirements. The wells are in the lower greensand at Halling and Charing. Copies of analyses are sent monthly to the M.O.H. That for January, 1926, stated the water was "clear, palatable and free from poisonous metals, and of excellent quality." The total hardness in degrees was 11.69. The company supplies 2,162 dwelling-houses in the Maidstone Rural District.

MAIDSTONE WATER COMPANY.—In the past the supply has been ample during nine months of the year. During the height of summer it is insufficient to keep up a constant supply; this was the case in the years 1921, 1922 and 1925. The sources of supply are from the chalk formation and the lower greensands. The possibilities of contamination are stated to be very remote, and the water has very slight plumbo-solvent action. Recent analyses show the water to be of excellent organic quality. The company supplies 642 houses and provides 85 trade supplies in Maidstone R. D.

The two companies, therefore, supply a total of 2,804 dwelling-houses, and, as 3,949 was the number of inhabited houses in the 1921 Census, at least 71 per cent. of the houses have water laid on.

Rivers and Streams.

The Tat, Yalding, is polluted with sewage matter.

The Brook, Loose, is polluted with sewage matter.

The River Medway runs through East and West Farleigh, and Yalding, and is polluted at several places.

Drainage and Sewerage.

BEARSTED.—Three parts of the parish is sewered with a satisfactory outfall. The other part has cesspools, which are emptied at the cost of the rates by the Council's motor emptier.

BARMING.—Barming Heath is sewered to the Borough of Maidstone sewer.

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA.—Cesspools only.

FARLEIGH, EAST.—Cesspools only.

FARLEIGH, WEST.—Cesspools only.

HUNTON.—Cesspools only.

LINTON.—The main road of the village is sewered with proper outfall works.

LOOSE.—Cesspools only. (See page 37).

MARDEN.—An old brick sewer runs through the village with outfall into ponds.

NETTLESTEAD.—A few houses on main road are sewered with outfall straight into River Medway.

OTHAM.—Cesspools only.

STAPLEHURST.—About 20 houses are sewered to septic tank and filter. All other parts of parish drain to cesspools and ditches.

TESTON.—Cesspools only.

YALDING.—Three parts of the village is sewered with outfall into a large tank with overflow into stream.

Closet Accommodation.

Number of W.C.'s to cesspool	..	..	1,761 approx.
„ W.C.'s to sewer	..	..	710 „
„ pails	..	..	520 „
„ privies	..	..	1,056 „

The Council are doing away with privies as far as possible whenever an opportunity occurs.

Scavenging.

The Council do not undertake the collection of house refuse in any part of their District.

A private contractor collects the refuse in a part of Loose parish.

The Council have a motor cesspool emptier which will empty cesspools, etc., at the cost of the owner or occupier of the premises where it is used. This is the method adopted in all the parishes except Bearsted, where cesspools are emptied at the cost of the rates.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.**Nuisances investigated under Public Health Act, 1875.**

Written complaints received and investigated	..	..	..	31
Re overcrowding, number investigated	..	..	..	7
Re offensive trades	..	..	..	Nil.
Sanitary arrangements for conversion	..	..	..	55
Dustbins, number investigated	..	..	..	Nil.
Re drains, number investigated	..	..	..	824
Others, number investigated	..	..	..	316
Notices served statutory	..	..	..	16
Notices served informal	..	..	..	186
Number of houses disinfected	..	..	..	62
Number of lots of clothing disinfected	..	..	..	8
Approximate amount of food condemned during year (in lbs.)	..	..	..	Nil.
Legal proceedings	..	..	..	Nil.
Notices not yet complied with	..	..	..	40

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations.

Number of houses inspected during the year under section 17, H. T. P. Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Number found unfit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Number of representations for closing orders	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
„ houses put into proper repair but in which no closing order was necessary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
„ houses made habitable after closing orders	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
„ demolition orders	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
„ houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
„ houses repaired by Council, the owner failing to do so	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
„ houses where the repairs have not yet been completed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Legal proceedings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

Overcrowding.

- (1) EXTENTS.—Seven cases dealt with.
- (2) CAUSES.—Lodgers and large families.
- (3) MEASURES TAKEN TO DEAL WITH OVERCROWDING.—Notices served on tenant to abate overcrowding.

Water Supply.

Inspections made re existing water supply	..	..	..	..	82
Samples taken and submitted for analysis	..	..	..	..	6
Water certificates granted for new houses	..	..	..	..	70

Hop-picking.

Number of encampments inspected	..	..	..	..	152
„ hopper houses inspected	..	..	..	..	418
„ new huts this year (included in above)	..	..	..	..	220
„ tents	..	..	..	..	80
„ gipsy vans	..	..	..	..	58
„ cookhouses	..	..	..	..	404
„ privies	..	..	..	..	458
Estimated number of foreign pickers	..	..	..	..	35,000
Number of farms requiring a better water supply	..	..	..	..	18
Legal proceedings	..	..	..	..	1

Factories, Workshops, Etc.

	No. in District	No. of Visits	No. of Defects Found	No. of Defects Remedied
Bakehouses	15	22	5	5
Dairies and cowsheds	61	70	3	3
Slaughter-houses	18	226	16	16
Meat shops or stores	28	84	12	12
Common lodging-houses		Nil.		
Factories and workshops	107	30	11	11

Slaughter-houses.

	1920	January 1925	December 1925
Registered	15	15	18
Licensed	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Tuberculosis Orders.

Number of visits	66
------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Table showing Number of Persons engaged in the Milk Business in the various Parishes.

	Cowkeeper	Purveyor only	Total
Bearsted	1	—	1
Barming	1	—	1
Boughton Monchelsea	3	1	4
Farleigh, East	3	—	3
Hunton	2	1	3
Linton	5	—	5
Loose	3	2	5
Marden	10	1	11
Nettlestead	2	—	2
Staplehurst	18	2	20
Teston	1	1	2
Yalding	2	2	4
	51	10	61

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.**Number of New Houses erected during the Year.**

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	69
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(i.) By the Local Authority	Nil.
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	31

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

INSPECTION.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	226
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	34
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	15

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	116
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.**A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil.

B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS Nil.**C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 14 AND 15 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925 Nil.****PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.****Notifiable Diseases during the Year.**

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet fever	31	28	—
Diphtheria	21	20	1
Enteric fever (including paratyphoid)	4	4	1
Puerperal fever	1	1	—
Pneumonia	11	—	2
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Totals	70	53	4

The following table is given at the request of the Ministry of Health to indicate any effect of the hop-picking industry on the health of the District. The cases for each month are given.

Disease		Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Totals
January	..	1	3	—	—	—	—	4
February	..	—	3	—	—	3	—	6
March	..	—	2	—	—	2	—	4
April	..	—	5	—	—	1	—	6
May	..	—	2	—	—	—	1	3
June	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
July	..	1	3	1	—	—	—	5
August	..	3	4	—	—	1	1	9
September	..	5	2	1	—	1	—	9
October	..	3	3	1	1	1	—	9
November	..	1	3	—	—	2	—	6
December	..	7	1	—	—	—	—	8
		21	31	4	1	11	2	70

Scarlet Fever.—A total of 31 cases were notified during the year. They occurred in the following parishes: Marden, 12; Staplehurst, 9; Loose, 3; Boughton Monchelsea, 2; Barming, 3; and Otham and Yalding each one, and at the age periods of:—

1—2	2—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	
4	8	8	7	4	= 31

A total of 230 school and home “contacts” were examined by the M.O.H. during the year.

Diphtheria.—The diphtheria cases numbered 21 in all. They were widely distributed throughout the District as follows: Yalding, 8; Marden and Staplehurst, each 5; and Loose, Otham and East Farleigh, each 1. They occurred at the age periods of:—

1—2	2—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	50 years	
2	4	10	1	3	1	= 21

The Yalding cases occurred all in the last quarter of the year. A total of 170 swabs were taken of school and home “contacts,” of this number 11 proved to be positive. Hospital treatment was accepted only in 4 cases by the parents. Thirty-four other swabs were taken during the year of children in other schools, all being clear.

Enteric Fever.—The enteric cases occurred 2 at Staplehurst, 1 at Linton and 1 at Barming, 3 of the cases being removed to the West Kent Hospital, Maidstone, and the other to Loose Hospital. Three of the cases were between the ages 10 to 15 years, and the fourth aged 34 years. The Linton case died in West Kent Hospital. The Staplehurst cases were attributable to defective sanitation.

The puerperal fever case was admitted to West Kent Hospital.
Of the 11 pneumonia cases, 3 were of the influenzal type ; 2 deaths resulted.
Two cases of erysipelas were reported, 1 each at Barming and Marden.

Minor Infectious Diseases.—MEASLES.—A total of 265 notifications were received from head teachers.

WHOOPING COUGH.—110 cases were reported.

CHICKENPOX.—41 cases were reported.

Also 23 measles, 14 impetigo and 3 ringworm cases were reported, making a total in all of 456 notifications of minor infectious diseases during the year.

Tuberculosis.—A total of 30 new cases were notified ; 15 deaths were registered.

Age-Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
15	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
20	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
25	3	5	1	—	1	1	—	—
35	4	3	—	1	3	1	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	1	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10	16	2	2	4	7	2	2
	26		4		11		4	

REPORT ON THE DRAINAGE OF NEW LOOSE BY THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Acting on the instructions of the District Council, on the 30th July the complaints regarding the absence of proper drainage facilities at Loose were investigated. The area affected, which is chiefly residential, extends from the boundary of the Borough of Maidstone to the school, and from which the complaints have arisen was the only one dealt with.

This area, which consists of 208 houses, was inspected in detail by Inspector Sedgwick and myself. Most of the houses are of the modern villa type, fitted with the usual conveniences. The odd eight of the houses nearest the Maidstone borough boundary now drain into the main borough sewer, and it is this privilege that many of the other property owners request. The 200 houses drain into cesspools, several of which are situated in the front gardens of the villas, evidently in anticipation of sewers being laid at some future date. At present, however, in that situation, they constitute an objectionable and unhealthy feature. In my report to you for May I mentioned one instance where the drainage of a large house runs into a cesspool in the front garden of the neigh-

bouring house. One row of 12 cottages drains into one cesspool. Such conditions, in my opinion, are likely to be injurious to the health of the inhabitants. While many of the persons interviewed did not complain, others stated that the cesspools "smelt terribly." In one house a domestic W.C. downstairs had to be sealed up because of the sewage from the cesspool surging back. In some houses the baths cannot be used because of the difficulty of disposing of the waste water. It is not right to thus discourage habits of cleanliness. To overcome this difficulty, temporarily, many of the cesspools have been fitted with soakaways.

It was felt that the Council would be greatly assisted in coming to a decision regarding this important matter if some definite facts were presented. No great exception can be taken to waste water from baths, handbasins, and even from sinks, flowing into cesspools 50 feet from a house, provided there is an efficient soakaway for the overflow, but the use of cesspools for soil water from W.C.'s necessitates their receiving careful attention and being more frequently emptied. The restricted curtilage of most of the houses in question rules out cesspools and makes sewer drainage a necessity to convenience and health. Leaving out the eight houses which already drain into the Maidstone sewer, of the 200 houses, 95 have baths, 137 have water closets (48 of these having two installed), 55 houses have handbasins, and 148 have sinks.

When in a given drainable area over two-thirds of the houses in that area have water drainage in the form of W.C.'s and sinks, and about half of the houses have baths, the case for sewerage that area and providing for the disposal of the sewage by appropriate treatment is unquestionably made out.

In view of these facts I have no hesitation in recommending the Council without undue delay to give instructions that the residential area of the parish of Loose be properly and efficiently drained by sewer. Fortunately the costly provision of sewerage works for the treatment of the sewage is not likely to be required, as in the case of Bearsted or Staplehurst. The fact that building development is going on rapidly in this district makes the matter one of urgency. We noted six houses nearing completion.

13th August, 1925.

Tenterden Rural District.

1925 Health Report.

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38,379
Population (Census 1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,852
„ (Estimated 1925)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,880
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,480
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,504
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£45,785
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£138

		Total	M.	F.	
Births.	Legitimate	95	54	41	
„	Illegitimate	9	5	4	
		104	59	45	Birth rate (R.G.) 17.6
Deaths	..	66	31	35	Death rate (R.G.) 11.2
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—					
	From sepsis	..	..	..	Nil.
	„ other causes	..	..	..	Nil.
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—					
	Legitimate, 9.6 ; Illegitimate, 19.2	..	..	..	Total 28.8
	Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil.
	„ „ diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	Nil.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Bye-laws.

Bye-laws with respect to tents, vans, sheds and similar structures (adopted 10th June, allowed by the L.G.B. 6th September, 1898.).

Bye-laws with respect to new buildings (adopted 3rd July, allowed by the L.G.B. 17th August, 1914).

Regulations.

Regulations with respect to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops (came into force on and after 30th September, 1905).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

The District is supplied by three companies.

(1) CRANBROOK WATER COMPANY supplies 305 dwelling-houses and 18 standpipes in the parishes of Rolvenden, Biddenden and High Halden. An extension of the main has been made to The Quarter, Biddenden. Four standpipes to hop-pickers' dwellings are also supplied. A full description of this company's supply is given in the report for Cranbrook Rural District.

(2) MID KENT WATER COMPANY supplies 180 dwelling-houses in Biddenden, High Halden and Woodchurch parishes. Particulars of the source of this supply are given in the report for Maidstone Rural District. After protracted

negotiations between the above companies and the Rural District Council it was arranged that the Cranbrook Company do hand over to the Mid Kent Company its statutory rights to supply the parish of Woodchurch. The work of extending the Mid Kent Company's main to this village has been completed and many connections have been made. Several complaints have been received regarding the unsatisfactory water supply from the wells in Appledore ; 16 samples have been analysed, 13 of these were reported to be unfit for drinking. The Appledore Parish Council states " that as far as they are aware there is no general desire in the parish for a public supply of water." The Directors of the Mid Kent Company " feel that the question of the supply to Appledore must stand over until they have their mains extended to Ham Street, which they hope will be in the course of the next one or two years."

(3) A private company supplies 16 houses, the school and village fountain in the parish of Wittersham. A recent analysis of a sample of this supply showed the water to be of excellent organic quality.

It will be noted, therefore, that at least 520 dwelling-houses have company water laid on. As there are 1,480 inhabited houses (1921 Census), 35 per cent. are thus supplied.

Rivers and Streams.

The polluted streams are both in Rolvenden parish and have no special names. One is to the north of Rolvenden Layne and is receiving sewage matter from several cottages. The other is on the south side of The Layne, and takes the sewage from practically the whole of that locality. The sewage passes through a small septic tank before discharge into the stream. The tank is very out of date and is not capable of dealing with the sewage efficiently. Both of these streams are receiving attention.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Appledore parish has a small septic tank which deals satisfactorily with a portion of the village, the remainder (and larger) portion is served by a temporary earth tank and filter, the sewage being so treated before discharge into a ditch.

Biddenden has a public sewer, but no means of treating the sewage.

Rolvenden Street has two septic tanks and The Layne as above.

Wittersham has an efficient drainage and sewage treatment.

Woodchurch is partially sewered and has septic tanks which deal with the upper part of the village only. The lower part is not sewered.

The remaining parishes in the District are not sewered.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Inspections made during 1925.

Description	Number
Slaughter-houses	248
Drainage	33
Disinfections	11
Water samples	15
Housing	36
Hopper huts	17
Dairies and cowsheds	46
Polluted streams	2
Removals to hospital	6
Bakehouses	21
Infectious disease	23
Total	458

The only matter of importance to report is the extension of the Mid Kent Water Company's main to Woodchurch.

This work was practically completed by the end of the year, and at the time of writing many connections have been made.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during the Year.

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	17
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(i.) By the Local Authority	Nil.
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	7

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

INSPECTION.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	36
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	36
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	12

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ..	8
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil.

B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 14 AND 15 OF THE HOUSING Act, 1925	Nil.
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PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	5	2	—
Enteric fever	2	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Malaria	2	—	—
Totals	10	3	—

Scarlet Fever.—Five cases were notified, 2 being removed to the Isolation Hospital at Cranbrook, the others were isolated at home. They occurred 3 at High Halden and 2 at Appledore. The age periods of these cases were as follows :—

2—5	5—10	15 years	= 5
—	—	—	
2	2	1	

Eighty-five “ contacts ” were medically inspected at the Appledore school, one child was found in the “ peeling ” stage of the disease ; she was at once excluded and sent to hospital. The home “ contacts ” of all the cases were also examined. This measure no doubt prevented an epidemic developing in the school.

Enteric Fever.—The enteric fever cases occurred at Wittersham and Rolvenden. The former, a female aged 55 years, was removed to the Capel Isolation Hospital ; the latter, a female aged 21 years, was treated at home. In both instances the infection had been got outside of the District.

The case of erysipelas occurred at Woodchurch, of a male aged 86 years. Two cases of malaria were reported, from Biddenden and Wittersham. The disease in both instances was contracted abroad. As a precaution they were advised to sleep under mosquito nets.

Minor Infectious Diseases.—Twenty-one notifications were received from head teachers—measles, 1 ; chickenpox, 6 ; whooping cough, 9 ; and impetigo, 5. Vaccination was advised as a precaution in the chickenpox cases.

Tuberculosis.—A total of 12 new cases were notified ; 4 deaths were registered.

Age-Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	..	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	..	..	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
25	..	..	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	..	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
65 and upwards			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			3	6	—	3	1	2	—	1
			9		3		3		1	

Tonbridge Rural District.

1925 Health Report.

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46,805
Population (Census 1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,399
„ (Estimated 1925)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,120
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,090
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,135
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£171,548
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£640
Amount of Poor Law relief	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£4,339

THE EXTENT TO WHICH HOSPITAL AND OTHER FORMS OF GRATUITOUS MEDICAL RELIEF ARE UTILISED.—There were 200 persons in the Infirmary on January 1st, 1926, suffering from sickness, etc. The Guardians have an arrangement with the Rural District Council whereby infectious cases are received into the Council's Hospital. Persons residing in the District can be admitted to the Tunbridge Wells General Hospital.

			Total	M.	F.		
Births.	Legitimate	..	290	151	139		
„	Illegitimate	..	10	7	3		
			—	—	—		
			300	158	142		
			—	—	—	Birth rate (R.G.)	16.5
Deaths	..	..	220	114	106	Death rate (R.G.)	12.1
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—							
	From sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	1
	„ other causes	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—							
	Legitimate, 53.3 ; Illegitimate, 10.0	..	..	..	..	Total	63.3
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
„ „ diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

By an Order dated the 15th day of February, 1921, the Minister has declared that on and after the 7th day of March, 1921 :—

- (a) Part II. (which relates to streets and buildings), other than sections 19 to 23 inclusive, 26 to 28 inclusive, and 31 ;
Part III. (which relates to sanitary provisions), other than sections 39 to 44 inclusive, 47, 48, 50 and 51 ; and
Part IV. (which relates to infectious diseases), other than sections 61 and 68 of the above Act, shall be in force in the several contributory places within the R. D. of Tonbridge.
- (b) Section 19, comprised in Part II., and sections 39, 40, 41 and 42, comprised in Part III. of the said Act, shall be in force in the contributory place of Brenchley ; and
- (c) Sections 39, 40, 41 and 42, comprised in Part III. of the said Act, shall be in force in the contributory places of Bidborough, Capel, Hadlow, Hildenborough, Lamberhurst, Pembury, and Speldhurst.

Subject as regards sections 19, 25, 30, 35, 38 and 59 to the conditions specified in the Order.

Bye-laws for securing the decent lodging and accommodation of persons engaged in hop-picking, and in the picking of fruit and vegetables. Adopted 2nd August, 1907, and allowed by the Local Government Board on the 25th September, 1907.

The new intermediate code relating to buildings bye-laws, under consideration by the Council for a number of parishes included in the Tonbridge Rural District, came into force during 1914, and were adopted by the Council on 6th March, 1914, and confirmed by the Local Government Board on 12th August, 1914.

Regulations under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1886, and the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885, were adopted on 19th July, and came into operation on 30th August, 1907.

Bye-laws with respect to common lodging-houses. Adopted 24th February, and allowed by the Local Government Board 7th April, 1911.

Bye-laws with regard to slaughter-houses in the contributory places of Hadlow, Hildenborough, Speldhurst, and Tonbridge Rural.

Bye-laws with respect to new streets and buildings, and with respect to the drainage of existing building.

Part III. of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, in the whole of the District.

Local Government Order for the removal of refuse, cleansing cesspools, etc. (section 42, Public Health Act, 1875). In operation in the parishes of Bidborough, Brenchley, Capel, Hadlow, Hildenborough, Horsmonden, Lamberhurst, Pembury, Speldhurst, and Tonbridge Rural.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water.

The district is very well supplied with water from four sources. No less than 80 per cent. of the houses have company water.

The South Kent Water Company supplies 2,459 dwellings in the villages of Brenchley, Capel, Hadlow, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst, and also parts of Tonbridge Rural Parish and Pembury.

Tonbridge Wells Corporation supplies 492 dwelling-houses in Speldhurst and parts of Pembury and Tonbridge Rural Parish.

Tonbridge Water Company supplies 310 dwelling-houses and 20 standpipes for houses in the parish of Hildenborough.

Southborough Council supplies 10 dwelling-houses in Bidborough.

It is noted, therefore, that a total of 3,291 houses have company water supply. There were 4,090 inhabited houses in 1921, leaving only 799 houses without company water.

Rivers and Streams.

The Medway passes through Hadlow and Tonbridge Rural Parish, and is not subject to any serious direct pollution. The tributary streams, however, which pass through the villages of Hadlow and Horsmonden are both polluted by sewage.

Closet Accommodation (approx.).

- 2,440 W.C.'s are connected to drainage systems.
 1,329 W.C.'s drain into cesspools.
 262 premises have earth closets or privy middens.
 171 pail closets are in use.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The following are the methods of sewage disposal in the various parishes of the District :—

- BIDBOROUGH.—Part drained and sewage treated by broad irrigation.
 BRENCHLEY (village).—Disposal by broad irrigation on three slopes.
 CAPEL.—Pipes laid to a ditch. Not satisfactory.
 HADLOW.—Settling tanks. Not satisfactory.
 HILDENBOROUGH.—Efficient system of tanks and filter beds.
 HORSMONDEN.—Cesspools throughout with overflows in some cases to old surface drains. Unsatisfactory.
 LAMBERHURST.—Tanks and outfall into the Teise. Fairly satisfactory.
 PADDOCK WOOD.—Efficient system of Stane's ejectors, tanks and filters with revolving sprinklers.
 PEMBURY.—Efficient system of tanks and filter beds.
 SPELDHURST and LANGTON.—Efficient system of tanks and filter beds.

In addition to the above two 40-h.p. Dennis mechanical cesspool emptiers are constantly working in the District. Each has a capacity of 750 gallons.

Scavenging.

This is carried out by the District Council in parts of Bidborough, Hadlow, Hildenborough, Horsmonden, Langton, Pembury and Speldhurst. The collections are made fortnightly. The use of movable ashbins is encouraged.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1925.**Inspection of District.**

Total number of all kinds of visits paid	..	..	..	..	2,372
Total number of letters written	..	..	..	..	713

Disinfection. —Houses disinfected	..	..	..	..	88
Batches of clothing disinfected	10

Nuisances. —Nuisances discovered and dealt with	205
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These included : overcrowding, 2 ; offensive trades, 1 ; animals, 5 ; drainage, 65 ; sanitary accommodation, 43 ; dustbins, 67 ; and others, 22.

Hop-pickers' Encampments.—Many visits were paid to these before, during and after hop-picking. The approximate number of persons who were housed on the farms during the picking season was 19,265, including children but not week-enders. There were more young children than ever. Over 300 huts were provided with increased light and ventilation, and 180 new huts were erected. The number of extra cookhouses provided was 45, and 56 extra latrines were put up. A large number of boarded floors to the huts were provided, and many concrete floors. Chalk floors to the huts were provided on two large farms. Water was laid on to one farm, and the water service pipe extended on six farms. The scavenging of the camps is capable of great improvement.

Food Inspection.—In Tonbridge Rural District there are 23 bakehouses, 59 dairies, 183 cowsheds, 3 milkshops, 24 slaughter-houses. These have been regularly inspected, and of 37 defects found 36 have been remedied. The cowsheds have been visited 549 times, and while the Meat Regulations have been in force 431 visits have been made.

During the year the following quantities of meat have been condemned and destroyed: beef, 1 ton 12 cwts.; mutton, 200 lbs.; pork, 320 lbs.

Samples of milk taken for analysis, 5. These were all good.

Public Conveniences.—The lavatories and urinals at several hotels have been improved, and extra ones have been and are being provided for the use of charabanc parties.

Petroleum.—The number of licences issued is steadily increasing, and quite a number of underground tanks with pumps have been approved of.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during the Year.

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	58
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(i.) By the Local Authority	Nil.
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	27

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

INSPECTION.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	382
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	361
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	233

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ..	221
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil.

B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 14 AND 15 OF THE HOUSING Act, 1925	Nil.
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PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet fever	36	35	1
Diphtheria	11	11	—
Enteric fever (including paratyphoid) ..	2	1	—
Pneumonia	13	—	3
Erysipelas.. .. .	6	—	1
Encephalitis lethargica	5	2	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2	—	1
Malaria	1	—	—
Puerperal septicæmia	1	—	—
Chickenpox	24	—	—
Totals	101	49	8

The following table gives the numbers of cases each month of the year. This is given at the special request of the Ministry of Health to indicate the effect of the hop-picking industry upon the health of the District.

	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Encephalitis Lethargica	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Malaria	Puerperal Septicæmia	Chicken-pox	Totals
January	2	1	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	5	13
February	1	5	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	2	14
March ..	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	2	6
April ..	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	5	8
May ..	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	7	12
June ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
July ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
August ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
September	1	3	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	7
October..	2	13	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
November	1	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	8
December	3	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	10
Totals..	11	36	2	5	6	13	2	1	1	24	101

Scarlet Fever.—All the cases, with one exception, were admitted to Capel Isolation Hospital. They occurred in the various parishes as follows: Hadlow, 8; Pembury, 8; Lamberhurst, 11; Capel, 4; Brenchley and Hildenborough, each 2; and Langton, 1. The age periods were as under:—

$\frac{1-3}{3}$	$\frac{3-5}{3}$	$\frac{5-10}{12}$	$\frac{10-15}{14}$	$\frac{15-25}{4} = 36$
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It is noted that most cases occurred in October, just after hop-picking. Two of the cases were hop-pickers. In connection with the cases at the schools, it is my practice to examine the class contacts for missed cases. In this way 416 children were examined; several were excluded and referred to their own doctors.

Diphtheria.—All the cases were admitted to Capel Hospital. They were widely scattered throughout the District, occurring 1 each at Hildenborough, Bidborough, Groombridge, Brenchley, Matfield and Tonbridge Rural, 3 at Hadlow, and 2 at Pembury. The age groups were as follows:—

$\frac{2-5}{2}$	$\frac{5-10}{3}$	$\frac{10-15}{1}$	$\frac{15-25}{2}$	$\frac{25-35}{3} = 11$
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Twelve contacts were swabbed at the homes of the patients. One of the cases was a hop-picker.

Enteric Fever.—Of the 2 cases notified, 1 occurred of a female, aged 24 years, an inmate of the Pembury Union Infirmary, where she was isolated, and the other was of the son of the matron of the Capel Isolation Hospital. He was aged 8 years.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—Five cases occurred of this disease, 2 at Pembury, and 1 each at Horsmonden, Paddock Wood and Lamberhurst. One case, a boy, aged 17 years, who had the complaint rather severe, was removed to the Isolation Hospital; another patient, a woman, aged 50 years, was admitted to the Pembury Union Infirmary, where she died. A second death occurred in the person of a woman aged 60 years. The remaining cases were treated at home and recovered.

A total of 13 cases of pneumonia were reported, of which 3 proved fatal.

Six erysipelas cases were notified with 1 death.

Minor Infectious Diseases.—CHICKENPOX.—Twenty-four notifications were received. As a precautionary measure vaccination was advised in each case.

MEASLES.—A total of 222 cases were reported by the head teachers.

WHOOPING COUGH.—Forty-nine cases were notified.

IMPETIGO.—Thirteen notifications were received from head teachers of this contagious skin disease.

Five cases of ringworm, and 1 of mumps were reported.

The M.O.H. held 14 consultations with medical practitioners regarding cases of infectious disease.

Tuberculosis.—A total of 25 new cases were notified ; 15 deaths were registered.

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
I	..	..	—	—	2	—	—	—	I	I
5	..	..	—	—	I	I	—	—	—	—
10	..	..	—	—	I	I	—	I	—	—
15	..	..	—	I	—	—	I	—	—	—
20	..	..	2	I	—	2	—	I	—	—
25	..	..	4	2	—	—	I	4	—	—
35	..	..	4	I	—	—	I	I	—	—
45	..	..	—	I	—	—	—	I	—	—
55	..	..	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards			—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals ..			11	6	4	4	3	10	I	I
			17		8		13		2	

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

District nurses of the Kent Nursing Association (affiliated to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses) are located at 12 points in the Tonbridge Rural Area, and these attend to the 11 constituent parishes, under the supervision of Miss E. Maguire, County Superintendent, from whom I have received a tabular report (of which an abridged copy is appended) showing the work done by nurses during the year ended 31st December, 1925, acting in the capacity of health visitors.

The District Council contributes £88 a year to the Kent County Nursing Association in respect of maternity and child welfare services.

A Child Welfare Clinic was established in the village of Paddock Wood last year on my recommendation, which is proving a distinct success. The Council has made one annual contribution of £12 toward the cost of this, and it is anticipated this would be increased in the future. There were 244 attendances during 1925.

Health Visiting Report from January to December, 1925.

Nursing Districts	No. of Birth Notifications received	No. of Visits				
		To Expectant Mothers		To Infants under 12 months		To Children 1 to 5 years
		First	Subsequent	First	Subsequent	
Ashurst and Groombridge	2	8	7	28	12	39
Brenchley	24	18	93	29	79	95
Capel and Tudeley ..	26	25	81	21	98	31
Hadlow	44	—	—	42	108	63
Hildenborough	23	14	76	22	120	146
Horsmonden	16	18	35	55	102	102
Lamberhurst	20	21	27	21	82	72
Langton Green	20	7	3	8	8	32
Matfield	7	9	15	12	31	46
Paddock Wood	45	30	100	49	279	464
Pembury	47	6	19	38	122	274
Speldhurst and Bidborough	16	10	41	18	40	72
	290	166	497	343	1,081	1,436

Number of still-births investigated 4
Number of births not notified 10

Under the Notification of Births (Extension) Act, 1915, 290 notifications of births were received as against 300 registered births.

Southborough Urban District.

1925 Health Report.

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,702
Population (Census 1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,104
„ (Estimated 1925)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,023
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,686
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,804
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£42,074
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£160
Amount of Poor Law relief	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,710

THE EXTENT TO WHICH HOSPITAL AND OTHER FORMS OF GRATUITOUS MEDICAL RELIEF ARE UTILISED.—The Isolation Hospital has been used gratuitously by 15 persons during the past year and occasional use is made of the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.

		Total	M.	F.	
Births.	Legitimate	108	56	52	
„	Illegitimate	7	5	2	
		115	61	54	Birth rate (R.G.) 16.3
Deaths	..	107	48	59	Death rate (R.G.) 15.2
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—					
	From sepsis	..	..	..	Nil.
	„ other causes	..	..	..	Nil.
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—					
	Legitimate, 26.0 ; Illegitimate, nil.	..	..	..	Total 26.0
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil.
„ „ diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	1

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The following are the adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Regulations in force in this District :—

Bye-laws with respect to new streets and buildings (repealing those made on 27th June, 1912, and confirmed by the Local Government Board, 22nd August and 9th September, 1912). Adopted 24th June, and allowed by the Ministry of Health, 8th September, 1924.

Bye-laws for the prevention of nuisances (repealing those made on the 10th May, and confirmed by the Home Office on the 4th July, 1871). Adopted 27th June, and allowed by the L.G.B., 22nd August, 1912.

Bye-laws for the licensing, registering and inspection of slaughter-houses (repealing those adopted 10th May, and confirmed by the Home Office, 4th July, 1871). Adopted 27th June, and allowed by the L.G.B., 22nd August, 1912.

Bye-laws with respect to houses let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family. Adopted 27th June, and allowed by the L.G.B., 22nd August, 1912.

Bye-laws as to tents, vans, sheds, and similar structures. Adopted 23rd March, and allowed by the L.G.B., 23rd June, 1914.

Regulations made under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1886, and the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885. Adopted 26th September, and came into force on 1st November, 1888.

The following adoptive Acts are in force in the District :—

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. Adopted 31st December, 1890, and came into force 9th February, 1891.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. Adopted 31st December, 1890, and came into force 9th February, 1891.

Public Street Works Act, 1892. Adopted 29th March, 1899, and came into force 1st May, 1899.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907. Parts II., III., IV. and V., adopted 9th June, 1914. Sections 85 and 86, Parts VII. and IX., adopted 27th August, 1914.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

The District is supplied by works under the direct management of the Council. The sources are a deep well at Hayesden, near Tonbridge, and springs at Modest Corner, Southborough. The supply is stated to be constant, and to be ample for the requirements of the District ; also that there are no possibilities of contamination, and that the water has no plumbo-solvent action. An analysis, dated the 2nd November, 1925, stated that “ this water is of excellent organic quality.” About 1,700, that is, practically all the dwelling-houses in Southborough are supplied by the Council. Many complaints have been received regarding the excess of iron deposit in the water. Analyses of two samples of water taken on the 4th May, 1926, showed that the water contained :—

Before filtration	0.92 parts iron (Fe) per 100,000
After filtration	0.10 „ „ „

Report of the Medical Officer of Health on Refuse Disposal.

In consequence of complaints, the Tunbridge Wells and Southborough refuse dumps at High Brooms were, with the Surveyor, inspected on June 22nd. The hot weather had aggravated the conditions, and the complaints were justifiable. Most of the decaying household and trade refuse and the road sweepings from Tunbridge Wells is tipped into the quarries of the brickworks at High Brooms. One thing in its favour is that it cannot be seen, but it certainly makes its presence felt by the stench. The dump had caught alight and was smouldering in one or two places. Vile smells and smoke rise up to the houses above, only 200 yards away. In my opinion this pollution of the air is likely to be injurious to the health of the occupants of these houses. While Tunbridge Wells tips its refuse within Southborough's boundaries, Southborough, on the other hand, tips its refuse in the borough, on the site of the old Southborough gasworks. On the day of inspection this dump was on fire and conditions were worse than usual. It is also too near houses and is the cause of complaints. The Surveyor informed me that arrangements are being made for tipping elsewhere.

Someone has described spring cleaning as removing dirt from one place to another—that is just what the dumping method of refuse disposal amounts to. One is aware that Surveyors look upon it as a convenient and the cheapest method. Medical Officers of Health look upon it as indefensible from the point of view of the protection of the health of the public. From a legal point of view also the position is contradictory : the Public Health Authority provides breeding places for rats, and persons to whose premises these vermin migrate become liable. The putrefying refuse likewise germinates flies by the billion, these spread infectious disease, and the Authority compulsorily removes the patient to hospital. Finally, the accumulation of refuse creates a permanent offence under the Public Health Acts, being the origin of statutory complaints.

There is no question that burning in a suitable destructor is the only satisfactory method of refuse disposal. I am pleased to note that Dr. F. Churchill Linton, M.O.H. for Tunbridge Wells, deals with this important matter in his last annual report. I quote his remarks :—

“ Referring to future measures to safeguard the health of our citizens, the most pressing is the question of establishing a suitable destructor to deal with the town’s refuse. The present rubbish dumps breed flies, rats, and other vermin to an extent which ought not to exist in a town such as ours.”

I heartily agree with the Doctor, especially as one of the dumps referred to is in Southborough Urban District.

Serious complaints have arisen, not only regarding the smells from this dump, but for quite half a mile around almost every house has been plagued with flies. The danger to infants particularly from this does not require to be emphasised. Complaints are made too regarding rats ; they run along the streets in daylight, and are becoming a serious menace both from the point of view of the destruction of property and danger to health. The streets also are constantly littered with paper blown from this dump. Considerable effort is evidently being made by Tunbridge Wells Corporation to minimise the offence at High Brooms. Had the brickyard been three or four miles away from the dwellings no objection could be made to dumping refuse on it. But its proximity to High Brooms, in my opinion, renders its use for this purpose impossible from the standpoint of public health. Finally, just above the dump is one of the finest built and equipped slaughter-houses in the District, the use of which as such has had to be given up because of the dump. This would become available again when a destructor is built. In High Brooms there is no other slaughter-house suitable for use.

It seems to me the time is opportune for Southborough and Tunbridge Wells Councils to confer regarding this question of refuse disposal. It is recognised that it will take some time to negotiate about and build a destructor. The expenditure no doubt will be considerable, but apart from the value of the resultant clinker for road construction, the provision of a refuse destructor would be a sound insurance against expenditure upon infectious disease.

16th September, 1925.

Southborough Council has written to Tunbridge Wells Corporation suggesting that negotiations be opened regarding the proposal.

SANITARY INSPECTOR’S REPORT FOR 1925.

(a) Nature of Inspections made in the District.

Inspection of dwellings recorded under the Housing Act of 1925 ..	93
Inspections other than under Housing Acts	47
Factories and workshops	58
Bakehouses	6
Slaughter-houses	8
Under Meat Regulations, 1924	33
Cowsheds and dairies	28
Petroleum stores	20
Infectious disease	17
(Rooms disinfected, 21. Articles disinfected, 340.)	
Tuberculosis Regulations	20
Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919	22
Re-inspections of work in progress	324
Total number of inspections	676

(b) Particulars of Notices served.

Statutory notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Informal notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	139
								<hr/> 145

(c) Result of the Service of Notices.

Of the 139 informal notices served during 1925, 124 have been complied with. The remaining 15 were either in hand at the end of the year or statutory notices had been served.

(d) Detailed Statement showing the Number and Nature of Principal Defects found.

Water closet with defective flushing apparatus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Water closet structurally defective	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Defective drains, vent pipes, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Defective yard paving	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Dirty and defective walls and ceilings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Defective roofs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Defective rain water pipes and gutters	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Defective floors and staircases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Premises without proper dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69
Structural defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Defective sinks or sink wastes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Insufficient water supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Defective wells	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Defective fireplaces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Offensive accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Defects of cowsheds and dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

Food and Milk.—The provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts and the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919, are administered by the County authorities.

Meat.—Since the Meat Regulations, 1924, came into force (April, 1925) additional inspections have been made of meat; 3,818 lbs. of meat were examined, and 1,580 lbs. were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The provisions of the Meat Regulations were circulated to the meat purveyors, and glass shutters to their shops are now in fairly general use.

The slaughter-houses in the District are maintained in as cleanly a state as conditions allow, and three out of the four have a supply of water laid on to the premises.

Scavenging.—A weekly collection of house refuse and trade refuse is maintained, and the refuse deposited on to any available tip and covered over as far as possible.

Complaints have been received, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to dispose of refuse in this manner without causing a nuisance or creating offensive conditions.

Complaints have also been received of the dumping of refuse from the Borough of Tunbridge Wells within the Urban area, and the Council have approached the Tunbridge Wells Corporation with regard to the matter.

Movable galvanised iron sanitary dustbins are gradually replacing insanitary ashpits throughout the collecting area.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Most of the town's sewage continues to be dealt with at the Bidborough Disposal Works by means of septic tanks and bacteria bed filters fitted with revolving sprinklers. A further portion of the town's drainage is dealt with by broad irrigation on 3 acres of land, and the sewage from a few scattered houses below the level of the existing sewers are dealt with by septic tank installations, or drained into cesspools, which are emptied periodically by the Council's employees and apparatus.

Water.—A constant supply of water has been available, but complaints have been received with regard to the excess of iron deposit.

Disease Prevention.—During the year additional disinfection of premises, bedding, etc., has been carried out in connection with tuberculosis.

Overcrowding.—Five further cases of overcrowding were reported, but it is difficult to deal with these until further working-class houses are available. Partial remedies were effected by converting living rooms into combined living and sleeping rooms.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected by private persons during the year ..	14
As part of a municipal housing scheme	Nil.

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	93
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	30
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	89

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ..	68
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3. Action under Statutory Power.

A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	6 in hand end of year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet fever	12	11	—
Diphtheria	4	4	—
Puerperal fever	1	—	—
	17	15	—

Scarlet Fever.—All the cases, with one exception, were admitted to hospital. The age periods of incidence were :—

$$\frac{2-5}{2} \quad \frac{5-10}{8} \quad \frac{10-15}{2} = 12$$

In connection with these cases, 28 contacts at St. Peter's School, and 71 at High Brooms were inspected ; of the latter 3 were excluded and sent to their own doctor. One case occurred in an overcrowded house where there were 10 occupants.

Diphtheria.—The 4 cases notified were all admitted to the Isolation Hospital. They occurred at the ages 3, 6, 9 and 10 years respectively. In one instance a Justice's order had to be obtained for the removal of a child to the Hospital, as the father refused to give his consent. The home " contacts " to these cases were swabbed, all proving negative. The school " contacts " were advised to gargle with disinfectant as a precaution.

The puerperal fever case was of a woman, aged 33 years, who recovered.

Minor Infectious Diseases.—Only 3 notifications of this character were received during the year—measles, 2, and mumps, 1.

Tuberculosis.—A total of 10 new cases were notified ; 7 deaths were registered.

Age-Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 .. .	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15 .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 .. .	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 .. .	4	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 .. .	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
55 .. .	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ..	6	2	—	2	4	2	—	1
	8		2		6		1	

Borough of Tenterden.**1925 Health Report.****VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS.**

Area (acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,946
Population (Census 1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,438
„ (Estimated 1925)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,172
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	791
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	805
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£20,241
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£70

			Total	M.	F.		
Births.	Legitimate	..	41	19	22		
„	Illegitimate	..	5	2	3		
			—	—	—		
			46	21	25	Birth rate (R.G.)	14.5
			—	—	—		
Deaths	..	..	51	21	30	Death rate (R.G.)	16.0
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—							
	From sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
	„ other causes	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—							
	Legitimate, 21.7 ; Illegitimate, nil.	..	..	..	..	Total	21.7
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
„ „ diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH PUBLIC INQUIRY.

Smallhythe Churchyard.—On the 6th November, the Public Inquiry, held by Major Stewart, of the Ministry of Health, at Smallhythe Church, was attended, and evidence given by the M.O.H. The alleged pollution of the well supplying the adjoining cottage occupied by Dame Ellen Terry was proved to be unfounded. The analysis of a sample of water from the well showed that the organic quality of the water was only fair, but from examination of the suspended matter the well requires cleaning.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. Part III. adopted 1st May, and came into force on 9th June, 1903.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907. Parts II., III. and IV. were adopted on 5th May, 1910.

Bye-laws with respect to new streets and buildings. Adopted by the Council on 21st June, 1906, and allowed by the L.G.B. on 11th August, 1906.

Bye-laws for the prevention of nuisances arising from snow, filth, dust, ashes

and rubbish ; and for the prevention of the keeping of animals on any premises so as to be injurious to health.

Bye-laws with respect to slaughter-houses.

Regulations with respect to dairies, cowsheds and milk shops. Came into force on 30th September, 1905.

Bye-laws with respect to noisy animals and birds. Adopted 13th September, 1919, under section 23 (3) and (4), of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

The Borough is entirely supplied by the Cranbrook Water Company. Details regarding the same are given in the report to Cranbrook Rural District. It supplies 720 dwelling-houses direct, 29 standpipes to houses, and 7 standpipes to hop-pickers' dwellings. As there were 791 inhabited houses in the Census of 1921, practically every house, therefore, in the Borough has a supply of company water.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The following excellent description of the mains, drainage and outfall works in the Borough was prepared by the Surveyor, Mr. G. L. Turner, on the occasion of a recent visit of the Cranbrook Rural District Council to the works :—

Tenterden is situated on a ridge with natural falls to north and south. The main sewer commences at St. Michael's, and, following the natural fall of the land on the north side of the town, terminates at the outfall works near to Rolvenden Station.

The drainage on the south side of the town is carried to the north side by means of cast-iron pipes laid in a tunnel. Commencing with pipes 8 inches in diameter, the main sewer is later increased to 9 inches and again to 12 inches.

There are over five miles of sewer manholes, one placed at every change of direction and gradient in the sewer and at other intervals of about 300 feet.

Flushing tanks and ventilating shafts are provided at the head of every length of sewer.

The storm water is carried into the sewers, and there is one storm water overflow—the old sewage works, close to Tenterden Station, being utilised to treat the storm water before discharge into a ditch.

The sewer also carries trade refuse water from the tannery at West Cross and, until quite recently, the refuse from the Tenterden brewery. These two factories were estimated to discharge 250 gallons and 1,000 gallons per day respectively.

The outfall works deal with the sewage from approximately 570 houses and an estimated population of 3,000. At 25 gallons per head per day, a total of 75,000 gallons per day is dealt with as dry weather flow.

The sewage is treated on the sedimentation principle, and enters the works at the screen chamber. Here a vertical screen, 6 feet wide, arrests any solids, other than sewage matter, which are removed from the screen by raking once daily.

Passing from the screen chamber, the sewage enters the detritus tank, which

is in duplicate and has a combined capacity of 920 gallons, or one-eightieth D.W.F.

A storm overflow weir is provided to this tank, which operates at three times D.W.F.

The storm water passes to the storm tanks (2) and is there treated before being discharged.

Passing through the detritus tank, the sewage enters the sedimentation or settling tanks, of which there are two, with a combined capacity of 50,000 gallons, or two-thirds D.W.F.

Here septic action takes place and the greater portion of the purification of the sewage occurs.

The sewage now passes through the intermediate settling tank, as a precautionary measure to arrest any septic matter which may have passed from the sedimentation tanks, before entering the dosing tank.

In the dosing tank an automatic syphon is fitted to regulate and discharge a head of water sufficient to work the sprinklets.

There are three rotary sprinklets acting on filter beds, each 42 feet in diameter and 7 feet deep, with a combined capacity of 1,071 cubic yards, or 70 gallons, per cubic yard. The sprinklers are fitted with sluice valves to enable them to be worked independently.

From the filters the now purified sewage passes through the humos tanks, which have a combined capacity of 6,200 gallons, or two hours D.W.F.

The work of these last tanks is to collect any matter from the filtering media which may have passed along with the sewage.

The treated sewage is now discharged direct into the stream.

The bottoms of all the tanks are conical in shape, and sludge valves are fitted, which enables the sludge to be drawn off by gravitation, thus obviating the necessity of pumping.

The sludge is treated in shallow beds, where the liquor is drained off and the solids allowed to dry. The sludge is used as manure.

The cost of the sewers was £6,475, and the outfall works £2,394.

The whole scheme has been in operation for 10 years, and has given very satisfactory results.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1925.

Disinfection.—After cases of infectious disease, and upon request after cases of extraordinary sickness, the fumigation of rooms, bedding, etc., is carried out free of charge.

Disinfectants are also supplied, where it is considered necessary, to persons who are not in a position to buy the same.

Antitoxin is supplied to medical practitioners in cases of diphtheria.

Housing.—Housing conditions remain about the same as last year. There is still overcrowding in many of the cottages. Repairs have been carried out to some of the cottages, and the Council have withdrawn a Closing Order made in respect of one cottage in Golden Square, the owner having signified his intention of putting the same in a reasonable state of repair.

There still appears to be a demand for houses of the cottage class.

One new house has been completed during the year, and six are in course of erection at the time of writing.

Slaughter-houses.—The two slaughter-houses have been conducted in a satisfactory manner during the year. In one of these certain improvements have been carried out.

The standard of the meat has been high, and on one occasion only was it necessary to condemn meat, this being the carcase of a beast which was found to be tubercular.

The humane killer is in use in both slaughter-houses, and during my visits at killing time I have always found that this regulation is being observed.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—The premises registered have been periodically inspected and have been generally kept in a satisfactory condition. In one or two instances it was necessary to call attention to the limewashing of cowsheds.

Hopper Huts.—The accommodation provided for hop-pickers was inspected before and during occupation, and the attention of the hop growers was called to the regulations some time before picking commenced.

New huts have been erected on the Pick Hill Estate.

Dr. Parsons, of the Ministry of Health, together with the Medical Officer of Health, visited the encampments during picking and expressed themselves as being satisfied with the conditions prevailing.

Description	Inspections, etc.	Remarks
Rooms, etc., disinfected	13	
Slaughter-houses	177	
Cowsheds	40	
Schools	7	
Drainage	18	
Houses	48	
Accumulations of rubbish ..	5	
Water supply	14	
Water samples for analysis ..	2	Both wholesome.
Overcrowding	2	One abated.
Hopper huts	8	
Animals improperly kept ..	1	
Food condemned	1	4 cwt. 0 qr. 14 lbs. beef.
Bakehouses	12	
Removals to hospital	6	
Scarlet fever	6	
Pneumonia	2	
Erysipelas	1	
Paratyphoid	1	
Tuberculosis	2	
Miscellaneous	16	
	382	

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.**Number of New Houses erected during the Year.**

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	..	1
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—		
(i.) By the Local Authority	.. .. .	Nil.
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	.. .. .	Nil.

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

INSPECTION.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	48
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	.. ..	35
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.. .. .	29

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	..	23
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.**A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	.. .. .	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	.. .. .	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	.. ..	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	.. .. .	Nil.

B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS Nil.**C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 14 AND 15 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925** Nil.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet fever	6	4	—
Enteric fever (including paratyphoid) ..	1	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—
Erysipelas.. .. .	1	—	—
Totals	10	4	—

Scarlet Fever.—Six cases of scarlet fever were notified, 4 were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital, the remaining 2 being treated at home. They occurred, 3 at the age periods 3—5 years, and 3 at 5—10 years. The St. Michael’s School was visited and 50 children medically examined, a child in the “ peeling ” stage of the disease was found and isolated. As further cases occurred, the school children were again inspected by the M.O.H., 68 in all, when apparently all were clear of infection. The school was disinfected.

Paratyphoid Fever.—The case of paratyphoid notified was of a male, aged 25 years, who was isolated at home. The patient had recently returned from abroad, apparently having contracted the disease on the journey.

Two cases of pneumonia were reported, one proved fatal.

Tuberculosis.—A total of 3 new cases were notified ; 3 deaths were registered. One was a pulmonary case of a male, aged 20 years, and 2 were non-pulmonary, both boys, ages 3 and 12 years respectively. The former of the non-pulmonary cases was admitted to West Kent Hospital, where he died. The pulmonary case was removed to the Bethnal Green Infirmary.

Tonbridge Urban District.

1925 Health Report.

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,403
Population (Census 1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,929
„ (Estimated 1925)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,890
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,422
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,609
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£118,275
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£440
Amount of Poor Law relief	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,425

THE EXTENT TO WHICH HOSPITAL AND OTHER FORMS OF GRATUITOUS MEDICAL RELIEF ARE UTILISED.—The Cottage Hospital in Tonbridge treated 317 in-patients ; of these 261 were from the town and 56 from outside. Ninety out-patients were also treated, and 63 X-ray examinations made.

		Total	M.	F.	
Births.	Legitimate	226	117	109	
„	Illegitimate	11	5	6	
		—	—	—	
		237	122	115	Birth rate (R.G.) 14.9
		—	—	—	
Deaths	.. ..	183	80	103	Death rate (R.G.) 11.5
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—					
	From sepsis .. ..	..	..	..	Nil.
	„ other causes .. ..	..	..	..	Nil.
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—					
	Legitimate, 46.4 ; Illegitimate, 8.4	..	..	..	Total 54.8
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	.. ..	..	..	..	Nil.
„ „ diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.. ..	..	..	..	Nil.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Bye-laws relating to slaughter-houses (revised 3rd May, 1923) ; common lodging-houses ; cleansing of footways ; removal of house refuse ; cleansing of earth closets ; nuisances ; offensive trades ; removal of offensive matter ; prevention of danger of whirligigs, shooting ranges ; new streets and buildings (revised 6th May, 1924). Adopted 3rd August, and allowed by the Local Government Board on 21st October, 1898.

* Bye-laws relating to new buildings. Adopted by the Council on 7th October, 1908, and allowed by the Local Government Board on 28th November of that year, and repealing Bye-law No. 86 of the 1898 Code.

Bye-laws relating to existing buildings. Adopted by the Council 1st May, and allowed by Local Government Board on 21st June, 1907.

Bye-laws relating to tents, vans, sheds, and similar structures used for human habitation. Adopted 4th January, and allowed by the L.G.B. on 14th February, 1911.

Bye-laws made under the Advertisements Regulation Act, 1907. Adopted 1st May, 1912.

Relating to houses let in lodgings. Adopted 1st October, 1913, allowed by L.G.B., 20th November, 1913.

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshop Order. Adopted 5th February, 1908.

The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. Adopted 7th January, 1891; came into force 14th February, 1891.

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. Adopted 7th January, 1891; came into force February, 1891.

The Private Street Works Act, 1892. Adopted 5th August, 1896, and came into force on 1st September, 1896.

Of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 :—

Parts I., II., III. (section 49) ; Part IV. (sections 59, 60, 67). By order of the L.G.B., dated 28th May, 1909.

Part III. (sections 34 to 48 inclusive, and 50 and 51) ; Part IV. (sections 52 to 58 and 61 to 66 inclusive) ; Part V. By order of the L.G.B., dated 17th December, 1910.

Parts VI. and X. By order of the L.G.B., 12th December, 1908.

Part IX. By order of the Home Office, dated 22nd November, 1913.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water.

The town is supplied by the Tonbridge Water Company. The supply is constant, and there is ample water to meet the maximum demands. The sources of supply are the Ashdown sand beds, 350 feet deep, gravel beds, 20 feet deep, and the River Medway. The whole of the supply is passed through a battery of Bell's pressure filters and, as a double safeguard, can be chlorinated by the Wallace Tiemann chlorinating plant. The water is not plumbo-solvent and there was no contamination during the year. The water from the deep well borehole and headings contains excess of iron, which is entirely eliminated by aeration, precipitation and filtration.

Number of houses in Tonbridge supplied by the Company is 4,180. Every house, therefore, has water laid on, as the number of inhabited houses (1921 Census) was 3,422. The report on the last bacteriological examination, dated June 19th, 1925, states "this is a perfectly satisfactory water." The last chemical analysis, dated December 10th, 1924, showed there was a total of 14 degrees of hardness—4 degrees permanent and 10 degrees temporary. The report was: "Chemically this water is quite satisfactory. The hardness is very moderate, the organic matter not excessive and the saline contents normal. It is very suitable for the purpose of a public supply." The amount of iron in the raw water from the deep well is 0.14 parts per 100,000. The last analysis showed no trace of iron in the treated and filtered water.

Rivers and Streams.

No pollution of the River Medway was reported. The river branches in flowing through the town. The channels were thoroughly cleansed out during 1920 by unemployed labour.

Closet Accommodation.

3,560 W.C.'s are connected to the drainage system.

19 W.C.'s are connected to cesspools.

17 are pail closets.

Drainage, Sewerage and Scavenging.

On the 5th May, with W. Laurence Bradley, Surveyor, an inspection of the Tonbridge sewage disposal works was made. It must be made clear that these are not a sewage farm in the usual sense of the term, as *no crude sewage* whatever reaches the land. The distinction is important from a public health point of view. The works, which were opened in 1911, are extensive, and include double sedimentation tanks, each having five compartments, and six octagonal percolating filters, each 75 feet in diameter. These are all situated at the highest point of the land, and to them the sewage is raised by powerful pumps driven by electricity. In the original scheme Mr. Bradley proposed to have a refuse destructor to provide the power. He is still of the opinion, and I entirely agree, that this is necessary. Outside the sewage works the refuse of the town continues to be tipped in an unsightly heap, as unhealthy as it is unpleasant to look upon, forming a breeding place of disease, producing vermin and insects, such as rats and flies. This accumulation of refuse is the cause of statutory complaints under the Public Health Acts; further, it seems to me, that the Regulations for rat destruction necessitate the proper destruction of household refuse. That the provision of a destructor would form a commercial proposition is more likely now than ever, because of the demand for clinker for road construction. No doubt the Council, in considering any future extensions of the existing excellent sewage works, the question of the destructor will be gone into. At the works there still is one of the first percolating filter beds constructed. These were put up in 1895, and my predecessor, the late Dr. Scott Tew, was greatly interested in the experiment. This was the newest method of treating sewage then, and has held the field till the present day. Recently, however, what is known as the aeration method of treatment has been introduced. Messrs. Brownlow, Ltd., at their Tonbridge factory, recently gave to officials of the District a demonstration of an important development of the aeration method which they have introduced.

With the Council's consent, and in conjunction with Messrs. Brownlow, I understand Mr. Bradley proposes to erect an experimental installation of the aeration method on the site of the old filter bed. The principle of the new method is the purification of sewage by agitation and aeration with compressed air. This is now available at the works. It will be interesting to see whether the new method, which in patented form is known as the activated sludge process, will replace the percolating filters.

If certain technical engineering difficulties can be overcome, the aeration method presents advantages from a public health point of view. It is really a reproduction scientifically of the purification that takes place in a swiftly flowing river, preferably over a series of waterfalls.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Inspections.—1,467 visits have been made to houses and premises, and 390 dwelling-houses—including 92 houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910—have been inspected for sanitary and housing defects.

Legal proceedings were taken in one case to recover the cost incurred by the Council in providing proper ashpit accommodation under section 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Notices Served.—377 preliminary notices have been given and 29 statutory notices served for the abatement of nuisances, or to meet with the requirements of the Public Health or Housing Acts.

Bakehouses.—There were 20 bakehouses on the register, but no underground bakehouses.

38 inspections were made, and notices were given in respect of the following matters requiring attention, viz. : limewashing due, 10 ; drainage and sanitary accommodation, 4 ; cleanliness, 1.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—There are 6 cowkeepers on the register of wholesale traders and producers of milk, and 5 cowkeepers and 15 dairymen on the register of retail purveyors of milk. 67 inspections have been made, and 10 notices given for defects found and to meet the requirements of the Council's regulations, viz. : limewashing, 6 ; floors defective, 1 ; cleanliness, 2 ; accumulations of manure, 1.

Slaughter-houses.—There are 8 private slaughter-houses in the District, 6 being registered and 2 licensed annually.

290 visits have been made during the year for the purpose of meat inspection at the time of slaughter, and to see that the requirements of the Council's bye-laws were being observed.

Six notices were given for defects found, viz. : limewashing, 4 ; sanitary accommodation, 1 ; accumulations, 1.

Notices of Slaughtering.—6 of the 8 occupiers of slaughter-houses have given notices of regular slaughtering at fixed times on fixed days, and 2 give notices of occasional slaughtering as required.

Food Stores and Food Preparing Places.—77 visits were made to shops and food preparing places, and 16 defects were detected and remedied.

All the butchers' shops have either fixed glass fronts or glass shutters which can be fixed when required.

Food Inspection.—1 ton 3 qr. and 5 lbs. of diseased or unsound meat has been condemned and destroyed.

Common Lodging-house.—These premises have been conducted in a satisfactory manner during the past year. 4 visits were made and 1 notice given to meet the requirements of the Council's bye-laws.

Offensive Trades.—There are 2 such businesses in the District, one being a fell-monger's, and the other a bone-boiling and fat-extracting business. 6 visits were made to these premises during the year. One complaint was received, the nuisance being investigated and remedied. Improved lavatory and closet accommodation has been provided to one of these premises.

Canal Boats Acts.—No dwelling-boats have used the local wharf during the year, and there are no boats on the register.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.—31 visits have been made to premises and steps taken by the use of suitable raticides, etc., for rat extermination. In several cases structural repairs have been required to render premises rat proof, and the Council have given facilities to occupiers to purchase raticides at cost prices.

Factories and Workshops.—There are 232 factories and workshops on the register. 110 inspections have been made, and 27 notices given for defects remediable under the Public Health or Factory Acts.

Petroleum Acts.—34 visits have been made during the year to petroleum stores, and 31 licences were granted to store petroleum.

Infectious Disease.—94 houses have been disinfected after cases of infectious disease, and bedding, clothing, etc., has been removed from 57 houses for steam disinfection at the Council's Isolation Hospital.

Drain Testing.—The drains of 56 houses have been examined and tested with smoke on complaint of nuisances, or in accordance with the Council's instructions after cases of infectious disease. The necessary steps have been taken to have the defects found remedied.

Housing.—HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910.

Number of dwelling houses inspected	92
Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
Number in which some housing or sanitary defects were found ..	78
Number in which no defects were found	14
Number rendered fit by informal action	26
Number rendered fit by formal notices under the Housing Act, 1925	5
Number rendered fit by formal notices under the Public Health Act	3
Number to which repairs had not been completed by the end of the year	44

The situation of the houses inspected is as follows, viz. : Bickley Road, 5 ; Baltic Road, 6 ; Church Row, 7 ; George Street, 15 ; Lambsbank Cottages, 4 ; Priory Road, 8 ; Pembury Grove, 13 ; Rose Street, 9 ; St. Stephen's Street, 21 ; and Vale Road, 4.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.—With respect to some of the more essential conditions of fitness the houses were in the main found satisfactory, viz., free from serious dampness ; satisfactorily lighted and ventilated ; properly drained, and with a sink and arrangements for disposing of slop water ; a satisfactory water supply ; adequate washing accommodation, and facilities for preparing and cooking food.

The character of the defects found chiefly apply to the lack of general repairs and cleanliness of some of the older cottage property.

OVERCROWDING.—Several cases have been dealt with where the air space per occupant has been below the minimum requirement of 300 cubic feet for adults and 150 cubic feet for children under 10 years of age. In other cases, although the air space for occupants has been above that figure, houses which are only suitable to accommodate one family have been occupied by two or more families, in some cases single rooms being occupied for both day and sleeping use.

SHORTAGE OF HOUSES.—There are still 212 names on the Council's register of applicants for houses, although the Council have erected 204 houses to date. When the present building scheme of 86 houses is completed, there will still be about 126 applicants unprovided for.

The following is a summary of nuisances and housing defects dealt with, viz. : keeping of animals, 3 ; smoke abatement, 2 ; water supply, 3 ; offensive accumulations, 11 ; overcrowding, 7 ; drainage, 46 ; sanitary accommodation, 73 ; ashbins, 87 ; cleansing and redecorating, 50 ; roofs, 22 ; gutters, etc., 19 ; yard paving and drainage, 21 ; sinks and sink wastepipes, 21 ; dampness, 19 ; others, 158.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during the Year.

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	73
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(i.) By the Local Authority	38
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	24

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses. (Houses requiring repairs, etc.)

INSPECTION.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	390
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	92
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	178

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ..	84
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	24
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	24
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 14 AND 15 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925	Nil.
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The repairs, etc., to 65 houses had not been completed by the end of the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table gives the cases notified during the year :—

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet fever	46	46	—
Diphtheria	4	4	—
Enteric fever (including paratyphoid) ..	1	1	—
Pneumonia	5	—	—
Erysipelas.. .. .	9	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	2	—	2
Totals	67	51	2

The following table gives the cases notified each month of the year :—

Disease	Diphtheria	Scarlet . Fever	Enteric Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Encephalitis Lethargica	Totals
January ..	—	8	—	1	—	—	9
February ..	2	7	—	3	1	—	13
March	—	3	—	—	3	—	6
April	—	8	—	—	—	1	9
May	—	3	—	—	1	—	4
June	—	2	—	—	1	—	3
July	1	2	1	—	—	1	5
August	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
September ..	—	3	—	—	1	—	4
October.. ..	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
November ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December ..	1	3	—	1	2	—	7
	4	46	1	5	9	2	67

Scarlet Fever.—All of these cases, with the exception of two who were treated at the School Sanatorium, were treated at the Isolation Hospital. They occurred at the age periods of :—

0—I	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—35	53 years	
1	9	21	8	5	1	1	= 46

During the year a total of 622 “contacts” were examined, both in the homes of the patients and at the schools ; 8 were excluded from school and referred to their own doctor in each case. Two of these were in the “peeling” stage of the disease. In 3 cases of scarlet fever the infection was traced to be from a boy who had recently had scarlet fever, but was still suffering from a nasal discharge. This examination of school and home contacts possibly prevented the outbreak reaching epidemic proportions.

Diphtheria.—The 4 cases notified were all removed to the Vauxhall Isolation Hospital. They occurred at the following age periods :—

5—10	10—15	50 years	= 4
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
2	1	1	

The 2 cases under 10 years were both boys of the same family. Swabs taken of the patients proved negative.

Enteric Fever.—One notification was received during the year of a patient aged 25 years. She was admitted to the Isolation Hospital, where she recovered. A sample of the water taken from this house was bacteriologically examined, and the report stated: “ This is a pure and wholesome water, well adapted, therefore, for the purposes of public supply.”

Of the 5 pneumonia cases reported, one was a child aged 11 months.

Nine cases of erysipelas were notified.

The 2 cases of encephalitis lethargica both proved fatal—of a male aged 23 years, and a female aged 52 years. They were treated at home.

Minor Infectious Diseases.—CHICKENPOX.—Nineteen cases were reported, vaccination being advised as a precaution in every case.

WHCOPING COUGH.—Sixty-five notifications were received from head teachers.

MEASLES.—Ten cases were reported.

MUMPS.—Twenty-four cases were reported.

Tuberculosis.—A total of 24 new cases were notified ; 27 deaths were registered.

Age-Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	..	..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
1	..	..	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	2
5	..	..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
10	..	..	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
15	..	..	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
20	..	..	—	3	—	—	3	1	—	—
25	..	..	2	2	—	—	2	3	—	—
35	..	..	2	1	—	—	2	—	1	1
45	..	..	1	1	—	—	3	2	—	—
55	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
65 and upwards			1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..			7	9	5	3	13	7	1	6
			16		8		20		7	

REPORT OF M.O.H. ON DISINFECTION OF SCHOOLS.

As requested, I have pleasure in giving a short report on the present practice with regard to disinfection of schoolrooms. The recognised method is by forced spraying, the disinfectant thus reaching every part of the rooms. The room is first sealed with special strips of gummed paper. The walls and articles of furniture are then sprayed. The disinfectants used can be the coal-tar preparations, such as Izal or Formalin. We prefer the latter, as it is generally considered more effective. The cost of this is 11s. the gallon, and it takes about half a gallon to disinfect an averaged sized school. Disinfectant fluid is also supplied to the caretaker of the schools to wash down the desks and to put in the water when washing the floors. Though medical opinion varies regarding the efficacy of disinfection, some looking upon it in the nature of a placebo, I personally am of the opinion that it is a useful measure in the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases.

I may add that the same methods of disinfection apply to houses. I further recommend that the bedding and personal linen of every case should be steam disinfected after the patient is removed to hospital. It is important also that this should be carried out after deaths or removal of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

I am having inquiries made at the picture houses in the town regarding the methods of disinfection, if any, in use there. It is obvious that during epidemics disinfection of such meeting places is advisable.

16th March, 1925.

“SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX.”

NO SLUMS IN TONBRIDGE.

There was a good attendance at a meeting of the Tonbridge Women's Citizens' Association, held at 95, High Street, Tonbridge, on Monday afternoon. Mrs. Darling, President of the Association, presided, Dr. S. Nicol Galbraith, Medical Officer of Health for South-West Kent, giving an address on “Public Health.”

Dr. Galbraith, at the outset, said about three years ago he entered for the first time the portals of Tonbridge Castle, the centre of Local Government for Tonbridge, and in some respects for South-West Kent. Above the door of the now beautiful Council room he noticed the Town Coat of Arms, and as he read “Salus Populi Suprema Lex” he thought that no town could have a finer motto. What was more, he soon found that the Town Council had lived up to its ideal and had seen to it that the health of its people had been, and still was, its first consideration. The origin of public health was in the dim and distant past. In 1875 the “Magna Charta of Public Health,” the Public Health Act, was brought into force. There had been a reduction in the death rate in England and Wales by almost half during the last half a century. In 1871 it was 21 per 1,000; in 1924 it was 12 per 1,000. In the same period the infant mortality rate, one of the most sensitive indications of national health, was brought down from 149 per 1,000 children born to 75 per 1,000. According to the records of his predecessor, Dr. J. Scott Tew, the Tonbridge district had done much better. In Tonbridge town the infant mortality rate was 106 per 1,000 births in 1895; in 1924 it was 60. In the rural district in 1895 it was 138, while last year it was 48.

MODERN VACCINATION.

Smallpox a century ago was a national scourge, but with the relaxation of the vaccination laws it had reappeared, and it had been said that "smallpox was the perquisite of those who elected to have it." There had been much unnecessary feeling engendered over the question of vaccination. The Doctor said that he felt the opposition arose in the first instance from insisting on infant vaccination, with its consequent disturbance to the child's health and the home. (Hear, hear.) As the protection of vaccination was supposed to last only seven years, he considered it more important to thus protect children and adults than infants. (Hear, hear.) He personally favoured what he called "Double School Vaccination," every child being inoculated when it entered and left school. The rapid decline in the number of deaths from tuberculosis was another evidence of the efficacy of public health. The Tonbridge Councils were doing their bit in the war against this scourge. Cecil Rhodes, Robert Louis Stevenson and Robert Burns were all victims of this plague. Referring to other destructive diseases, he said that rheumatic fever was the cause of most cases of heart disease. He said there was nothing to fear about cancer, the present opinion of medical authorities being that it was not infectious or contagious, but primarily the result of local irritation. Obedience to the laws of physiology was necessary for the keeping of the body in health, and to keep fit they had learned the great virtue of cleanliness, fresh air, ample sunlight, and pure food. Direct sunlight playing for five minutes had been proved to kill the tubercle bacillus, so let them "open out their windows, open wide the door and let the blessed sunlight in."

TONBRIDGE "A GARDEN CITY."

While the individual citizen was getting the full benefit of air and sunlight through sport and exercise, the Council did its part in providing the open spaces. In this respect he ventured to assert that Tonbridge was second to no borough or town of its size. It had no less than 70 acres of open spaces, of which 50 acres were playing fields. Tonbridge was indeed a "Garden City." The Ministry of Health officials, who were here in connection with the hop-picking, remarked upon the great asset to the town. Other duties of public health officials of the District Councils were the supervision of the production and sale of foods, especially of a perishable nature. But all their work availed nothing if the public did not help. With regard to Meat Inspection, they were fortunate in having the services in Tonbridge of an expert on this subject in Mr. M. Jenner. They knew that the slaughter-houses were not all perfect—the Council would like to have a central abattoir—but it was for the ratepayers to back it up. Bakeries also came under their care, and some of these required improvement. If they ate nothing but white bread, decaying teeth, appendicitis and possibly sleepy sickness might result. The daily milk supply came under the supervision of health officials. In connection with the milk trade, more than any other business, there were almost enough legal enactments and regulations to make the cows go dry—(laughter)—but all these laws could be summed up in one mighty word—cleanliness. Here again the customer was all powerful who could complain to the dairyman, and if not satisfied, to the M.O.H. Milk contained all that was necessary for life, health and strength. Tonbridge had an efficient and most satisfactory water supply, whilst the excellent and well-managed Gas and Electricity Works added to the health and comfort of the people and incidentally purified the atmosphere by using the coal supply to its best advantage.

HOUSING PROGRESS.

A most important health matter was the question of housing. They had a record in the Public Health Office at the Castle of practically every house under a certain rental in Tonbridge and South-West Kent. Inspectors were constantly going round making inquiries regarding necessary repairs. It was unfortunate that so many property owners waited until notices were served on them by the Councils. In property business more than most "a stitch in time saves nine." Regarding Tonbridge town, the officials were aware of some overcrowding, and that some property might be improved, but from observations based on facts he was of the opinion that Tonbridge had no slums. There were no back-to-back working-class houses, the curse of many Midland cities, consequently every house had through ventilation, a most important factor in the health of the occupants. Every house had water sanitation, and anyone who was acquainted with the dry closet sanitation of towns like Rochester and Nottingham knew what that meant to health. Every house had water laid on, he believed, to a sink, and there were no ashpits. They could confidently say, therefore, that Tonbridge had no slums. It demonstrated that there had been some people working hard in the past. Still they should press on for greater improvements, to the time when every house should have a bath. In his 14 years' experience of public work it had not been his good fortune to meet such fine types of officials as the Surveyors of the Town and District of Tonbridge, Messrs. W. L. Bradley and F. Harris. They set a very high standard, and their work in connection with housing was monumental. The two Councils had indeed shown remarkable energy and efficiency in carrying out the housing schemes. Tonbridge Rural Council was one of the few authorities to build houses before the war; 50 were completed then, and the total erected or on hand was 267, and the Council had decided to ask for sanction of the Ministry to build 85 more. Tonbridge Urban Council had built or had in hand 292, of which 136 were on the Barden Estate. The Town Sewage Works were modern and efficient. The only thing which both the Surveyor and he would like to see installed would be a destructor or other suitable means of disposing of the town refuse in the place of the present objectionable system of dumping. This would complete the public health organisations of Tonbridge, and when appeal for it took place would make incorporation a certainty. Tonbridge was a town of historical and scholastic importance, but unlike most castle and college towns, it lived not on its past, but benefiting thereby, kept abreast, and in some respects ahead of the times. It was a town of which to be proud. "*Salus Populi Suprema Lex.*" (Applause.)

Discussion followed the meeting, a vote of thanks to the speaker being proposed from the chair. This was heartily carried. Tea was served after the meeting.

(Reprinted from the KENT AND SUSSEX COURIER,
13th November, 1925.)

“National ill health loses time and reduces production, as well as resulting in suffering, discontent and premature death.

“The expenditure on Public Health is yielding a very high rate of interest in life and well-being.”—SIR GEORGE NEWMAN.

“The prevention of disease should be looked on economically as insurance against the useless expenditure caused by such maladies.”—SIR RONALD ROSS.

“The first wealth is health.”—EMERSON.